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THE TIMES

No. 65,241

FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

Police cut response to burglar alarms

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

90 per cent false call rate condemned as 'unfair to those in genuine need'

POLICE throughout England and Wales are to stop responding automatically to every burglar alarm call because more than 90 per cent of them prove to be false alarms.

Chief police officers decided unanimously yesterday to scale down their responses after studying a paper highlighting the drain on resources caused by the huge number of unwelcome calls. Guidelines will be issued to the 43 forces in England and Wales next month, but the decision has already been criticised by a charity

supporting victims of crime, which said that it would worry vulnerable people.

Under the rules being drawn up by a special committee, owners of persistent false alarms will be warned that the police will treat them as a lower priority, and they may eventually get no response.

Latest police figures show that false alarms on systems linked to a central unit and then passed to the police were running at a rate of more than nine out of ten. "Remote signalling alarms in England and

Wales collectively produced over 1.1 million false calls per year compared with 138,000 genuine calls. This is a 92 per cent failure rate," an interim statement from the Association of Chief Police Officers said.

It added: "Audible only alarms, requiring members of the public to call the police are estimated at three times this number, with an equally high probability of being false. At a time when nationally the police service is attempting to improve its performance further

and provide real value for money, the waste of police time and effort is unacceptable and is unfair on those in genuine need whose response may be delayed."

The association estimates that automatic alarm calls account for 20 per cent of calls to police control rooms, most of which receive an automatic response.

There are two main types of alarm: audible ones and signalling alarms, which alert the police or a security company without necessarily making a noise. Last year,

an estimated 713,962 remote signal alarms were linked to a central monitoring system in England and Wales, and about 2.15 million sirens, mostly installed on individual houses and flats. The number of false alarms from systems linked to a monitoring centre increased by 7.2 per cent to more than a million. The 138,000 genuine calls resulted in 10,000 arrests.

Under the guidelines being prepared, police will issue a written warning to the owner of any premises after attending four false

alarms. The warning is expected to say that the police will no longer offer the premises a priority service. After seven false alarms, the police would not respond at all. One criterion still to be worked out is over what period of time the limit would operate.

Police are also pressing for people with do-it-yourself equipment or audible-only alarms to improve the reliability of their equipment and to press manufacturers to improve their products. The move, announced a few

days after the release of figures showing a fall in domestic burglaries, was immediately criticised by Victim Support, which said: "This decision will hit vulnerable people. It is saying that as a deterrent, a burglar alarm may not be as effective as people hoped. It is a bad move."

But the British Security Industry Association said it would make people install their systems properly. Helen Reedswebb said: "The greatest cause of false alarms is customer ignorance. The people using the system do not really know how to set or unset their alarm. This should make them sit up and take notice."

Triple blow for Blair as unions bite back

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR's attempt to win "Middle England" by shifting Labour to the right has been hit by three blows from the party's traditional trade union supporters yesterday.

Unions, the biggest union, voted to oppose his plans to rewrite the nationalisation clause of the party's constitution. Bill Morris of the transport workers stepped up demands for a minimum wage of £4 an hour, and John Monks of the TUC attacked plans to close bad schools. He said Mr Blair was in danger of copying sailing football clubs that sacked their managers.

The Liberal Democrats also launched an assault on Labour's education policies, accusing Mr Blair of "betraying the Tories on the Right". They said failing schools could be helped only by higher spending, higher taxes to pay for it and better training for teachers.

The biggest threat to Mr Blair's vision of a modern Labour party came from Union delegates, representing 1.3 million health and local government workers. They voted at a special meeting by 55 to 47 to reject his plans to replace Clause Four of Labour's constitution with words highlighting the party's support for a dynamic, market economy.

The decision means the country's two biggest unions - Unions and the Transport and General Workers' Union - will be ranged against the Labour leadership at a special conference on Clause Four on April 29. The leadership had hoped that Unions would support Mr Blair.

Opponents of the new wording seized on yesterday's vote as a breakthrough. "This means that all bets are back on for the 29th," Geoff Martin,

from the Defend Clause 4 Campaign, said. "The vote also proves that Tony Blair cannot ride roughshod over the trade union movement."

Although Mr Blair is still likely to win overall, the poll in the trade union section - accounting for 70 per cent of the conference vote - could be much tighter. Together, Unions and the TGWU have 25 per cent of the vote, and Mr Blair will have to score a decisive victory among rank-and-file Labour members to be sure of carrying the day. The second blow for Mr Blair yesterday came when Mr Morris repeated his demand for Labour to put a figure on a national minimum wage. Mr Blair is reluctant to do so until much nearer the general election, although leadership sources said he remained committed to the policy.

Union leaders fear, however, that he will set too low a rate and phase it in, to avoid upsetting employers. At the last election, Labour campaigned for a minimum wage of £3.40 an hour, half the male median wage - now equivalent to £4.05 an hour.

The education revolt was triggered by David Blunkett's announcement on Tuesday that Labour would shut the worst schools and reopen them on the same site under new management - a proposal similar to the Government's "hit squads" scheme for taking over problem schools.

But Mr Monks said yesterday: "A system which concentrates its efforts on starting with more sticks than carrots does not seem to me to be the right way to proceed."

Mr Blunkett said that he was being tough, on failure and mediocrity, adding: "John Monks should talk to a few football fans. They know how important a good manager is to keep up morale."

The Shadow Education Secretary also came under fire from Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, who said that Labour seemed to think that Tory policies, admittedly repackaged, would bring it to power.

Blunkett warned, page 2



"Something terrible has happened": businessman Martin Link with his wife Alena

Suicide husband linked to body found in Wolds

By EDWARD GORMAN

A WOMAN found battered to death last week may be the wife of a wealthy property owner who committed suicide at the weekend, leaving letters telling of "something terrible having happened" and of a "nightmare" about which relatives would soon find out.

Hull police have been trying to identify the woman, whose body was found wrapped in a bedspread on a country lane near the village of Middleton-on-the-Wolds last Thursday. A post-mortem examination revealed that she had been battered about the head.

Last night they were liaising with police in Birmingham, who had appealed for information about Alena Link, 53, who has not been seen for nearly two weeks.

Their appeal came after the discovery on Sunday of the body of her husband, Martin, at the couple's home at Pershore Road, Edgbaston, in Birmingham. Mr Link, 49, a chemistry graduate, is thought to have taken a lethal mixture of anti-freeze and lemonade.

Officers found letters next to his body addressed to relatives, but not one to his wife. Their tone led to immediate fears that he may have killed



Artist's impression of the woman whose body was found, and Alena Link in a recent photograph



her before taking his life. In his message to his father, Mr Link referred to his "nightmare". He spoke of "something terrible having happened".

Inspector Keith Morgan, of West Midlands police, said: "There are precise, cold details of financial arrangements and business. Then he speaks of being in a 'nightmare', of how hard life could be with his wife, and of how they will know why he had to go."

Martin Link went to Leeds Grammar School before taking a first in chemistry at Queen's College, Oxford. He was an enthusiastic tennis and squash player, and owned six up-market houses in Birmingham.

Mrs Link was an architect for the construction firm Bovis after coming to England from Czechoslovakia. She gave up her career to take up painting and attending art school. "She was a very artistic girl," said Harry Link, 81, Mr Link's father. Mrs Link's 19-year-old son, Joseph, with whom she was last seen alive when they went swimming nearly two weeks ago, was last night staying at his father's home. Harry Link said he believed the problems in his son's marriage had led to his death.

Galicia fishermen demand their say

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

FELIPE GONZALEZ, the Spanish Prime Minister, was under intense domestic pressure last night not to make concessions to settle the fishing dispute with Canada.

As he studied a draft agreement between the European Union and Ottawa worked out in Brussels earlier in the day, fishermen in Galicia demanded that he consult them before any agreement. José Manuel Muñiz, president of the Spanish sea fishermen's association, said: "The worry is that this conflict will end in a worthless agreement, because of the haste by the EU to solve it. It would be terrible if the deal set a precedent."

Spain has 24 per cent unemployment, Europe's highest, and 9,000 workers and their families depend on a fleet which would have to be cut drastically under new quotas.

The Galician nationalist party, supported by the fishermen, said last night that any reduction in the catch of Greenland halibut would be

"totally opposed" and threatened to call for further demonstrations. Last night a third Spanish patrol boat, the *Atalaya*, sailed with 42 crew from El Ferrol in Galicia for the disputed fishing grounds.

The French presidency of the EU yesterday pressed Spain and Portugal, the only EU countries fishing in the north-west Atlantic, to accept the draft compromise. In Brussels, Spanish and Portuguese diplomats had forecast that the draft would be approved in Madrid and Lisbon.

The EU yesterday won what a "satisfactory" solution to Spain's request for repayment of €500,000, which the owner of the *Estai* had to pay to secure release of his seized vessel. Canada accepted that the agreement be subject to a wider multilateral deal within the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.

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Tunku Varadarajan, page 16
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Aitken wins support of ex-officials

By NICHOLAS WOOD

JONATHAN AITKEN's role in promoting sales of British arms to Saudi Arabia is strongly defended today by two former senior officials at the Ministry of Defence.

Sir James Blyth, head of the MoD's defence sales department from 1981 to 1985, and Sir Colin Chandler, his successor for the next four years, say in a letter to *The Times* that the interests of Britain and British industry were "extremely well served" by Mr Aitken when he was a Defence Minister.

Their intervention came after Mr Aitken, Treasury Chief Secretary, disclosed that he is to sue *The Guardian* over allegations about his business links with the Arab world. Sir James, now deputy chairman of Boots, and Sir Colin, chief executive of Vickers, the weapons manufacturer, say that defence contracts contributed £6.8 billion to British exports last year and supported hundreds of thousands of jobs.

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Easter exodus brings motorways to near standstill

By MARIANNE CURRIE

WARM weather and the Easter break brought Britain virtually to a halt last night as millions of motorists joined the exodus out of towns and cities to the coast.

Every motorway in England and Wales became jammed, and tailbacks of up to 20 miles built up from mid-morning in what motorway organisations described as

the biggest getaway of the year. By last night many major roads were also at a standstill, including routes through the West Country to Cornwall and Devon seaside resorts, motorways out of London to the North and West, and through the Midlands from Birmingham to Manchester and Blackpool.

The AA was inundated with calls, and although some roadworks were lifted over

the weekend to ease traffic problems, as many as 70 per cent remained in place. "It is a grim exodus," the AA said. "Motorways across the whole country are clogged."

For those leaving today, the organisation advised drivers to leave plenty of time, prepare vehicles fully, and stagger journeys if possible. Most travellers left yesterday, but queues today will be joined by day trippers enjoying the heat

— up to 18°C yesterday, six degrees higher than average. London Weather Centre said the fine weather would continue until Sunday, when cloud would affect areas in the North and East.

Airports were extremely busy yesterday, with more than a million people heading abroad. Gatwick is prepared for its busiest Easter weekend, with up to 230,000 passengers, while Heathrow is ex-

pected to deal with 500,000. Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow up to 300,000 passengers.

Eurotunnel, now operating two car shuttles an hour each way, said yesterday that business was very busy but delay-free. Eurostar, which on Wednesday kept hundreds of

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Forecast, page 20

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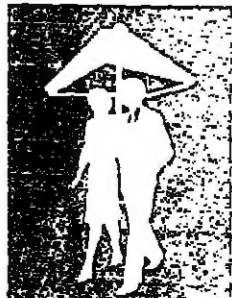
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Potential candidates to pledge support

Major prepares to thwart challenge after May election

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR has drawn up a battleplan to help him to survive renewed pressure on his leadership in the wake of the expected Tory drubbing in the May 4 council elections.

Tory backbenchers who support Michael Heseltine and Michael Portillo are drawing up plans to pressurise Mr Major to step down if the Conservatives are humiliated in the local elections in England and Wales. Their resolve has been strengthened by the heavy defeat the party took in Scotland last week where it finished fourth in terms of council seats.

However, Mr Major's strategy is to have the three

Cabinet ministers best placed to succeed him poised to give public pledges of their loyalty hours after the results are declared.

Mr Heseltine, Mr Portillo and Kenneth Clarke will take to the airwaves on May 5 to warn dissident backbenchers that the party has nothing to gain and a lot to lose from a leadership challenge. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary and the Cabinet's elder statesman, will join the concerted campaign by the Cabinet to shore up the Prime Minister.

For his part, Mr Major is poised to echo his defiant message of last year when

grin council election results and a hammering in the European elections placed a question mark over his leadership. His friends predicted yesterday that he would meet any challenge with his warning last year that "if anybody chooses to engage in a fight they will find me standing there waiting for them".

Under the Tory Party's rules, a leadership contest can be triggered in the autumn only if Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, receives letters from 33 MPs demanding an election. However, dissident MPs are planning to bring forward the day of reckoning by giving Sir Marcus the names of more than 33 MPs soon after the results are declared.

The idea is to put irresistible pressure on the Prime Minister to step aside. But all the signals from Downing Street are that the Prime Minister is readying himself to short circuit any rebellion.

The spectacle of Mr Heseltine, Mr Portillo and Mr Clarke warning MPs that fresh speculation about Mr Major's leadership would be deeply damaging to the party's chances of re-election is likely to have a salutary effect on potential mutineers.

Mr Major is understood to have taken on board mutterings about lack of leadership. As his speech to the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham earlier this month made clear, the Prime Minister has embarked on a policy review aimed at setting out a new stall for the party conference in the autumn.

Insiders say that Mr Major's relations with Cabinet rightwingers, such as Mr Portillo and Peter Lilley, have improved markedly in recent months after his dismissive reference to them as "bastards". The Right is hoping that Mr Major will be persuaded to rule out a European single currency in the next Parliament.



Hugo, a 40kg Rhodesian ridgeback, leaving Heathrow yesterday for Easter in Scotland



Heseltine, left and Portillo: supporters mobilising

Hanley to complain over Clause 4 airtime

JEREMY HANLEY, chairman of the Conservative Party, has written to John Birt, director-general of the BBC, to complain about the corporation's planned live coverage of the Labour Party's Clause Four conference on April 29 (Alexandra Frean writes).

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office said Mr Hanley was extremely concerned that the BBC was proposing to give airtime to the conference five days before the local government elections in England and Wales. "This is a PR stunt staged by the

Labour Party," he said. "We will consider further action when we have received a reply from John Birt."

The BBC is planning a 90-minute broadcast based on Labour's Clause Four conference, including live coverage of speeches and discussions with Labour grass-root supporters and analysis by politicians from other parties.

"Members of the public will also be able to take part in the programme live by phoning, sending a fax or message on the Internet," a BBC spokesman said.

Continued from page 1
passengers waiting for four hours after its overhead power arm ripped down live cables in Kent, said that services were back to normal; it would carry 10,000 passengers a day over Easter.

Hotels and guest houses reported a surge of bookings from the beginning of the week, with most reporting that they were fully booked until Tuesday. The British Resorts Association, representing 53 local authorities and nine coastal tourist boards, said the industry was expecting a very good Easter. BRA spokesman Peter Hampson said: "The

Motorways standstill

signs are very encouraging, with good weather prompting large numbers of day trippers."

At Bournemouth the tourist board said it had received twice as many enquiries as expected. A Blackpool spokesman said: "If the next three days are good, they will set the scene for the whole year."

Overseas City breaks are proving popular, particularly to Paris and Amsterdam. The

Spanish Coast, the Canaries and the Balearic islands, Malta and Cyprus are top of the list for short-haul holidays.

British theme parks are expected to attract big crowds, while English Heritage is staging several events, including battle re-enactments and historic pageants.

More than 19,000 reservations were made on the InterCity East Coast route from King's Cross to Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland, and extra trains were being run.

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IRA urges Britain to hasten peace talks

The IRA indicated yesterday that it would maintain its ceasefire but added that the peace process would succeed only if the Government responded more positively to the truce. In its traditional Easter message, the IRA underlined its anger at John Major's reaction to last year's ceasefire when it called on the Government to "shoulder its responsibilities".

The message, which will be read out at republican rallies throughout Ireland this weekend, is the first significant statement by the IRA since its ceasefire last September. The IRA signalled its commitment to the peace process when it said that republicans entered the "new situation in a spirit of determination, confidence and unity".

However, there was no enthusiastic support for the ceasefire. The IRA referred to the truce only once, and then merely as an "initiative" which was designed to enhance the climate for negotiations. Police uncovered a big haul of loyalist weapons in Holywood on the edge of Belfast yesterday. An area was sealed off and several men were arrested after detectives found a quantity of handguns.

Troops head for Angola

An advance party of British troops left for Angola last night to help launch a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the southern African country, which has been torn by civil war for 20 years. Britain is to contribute to the peacekeeping effort a battalion of 625 soldiers, most of them logistics personnel, who will set up infrastructure in preparation for the arrival of the rest of the 7,000 UN troops.

Benefit revolt feared

Social security ministers are bracing themselves for a revolt against the new incapacity benefit, introduced yesterday, which is expected to leave up to 400,000 people worse off. Incapacity benefit, which replaces invalidity benefit, will make it harder for those claiming long-term sickness and disability to prove that they are incapable of working. Claimants will be subject to a strict medical eligibility test.

Harrods bailiffs 'stunt'

A High Court judge has ruled that the Harrodsian School's well publicised use of bailiffs at Harrods, in a dispute over legal costs after the store failed to stop the school using the name, was a "vexatious publicity stunt". Mr Justice Mervyn Davies ruled that the action on February 20, which was given extensive coverage in the media, was "unduly excessive damage to Harrods' good name".

CS gas trials approved

The Home Secretary has authorised trials of CS gas against chief police officers told him they saw an operational need for an incapacitant spray. Announcing the trials while visiting Exeter yesterday, Michael Howard said: "Anything which helps protect police officers from the violence they face on behalf of the public must be looked at. I support street trials of the sprays to ensure that they are suitable."

Small objects of desire

More than 150 enthusiasts from around the world crowded into Christie's in London yesterday for a sale of rare Dinky toys, between them paying £52,246 for 292 lots. One fan flew from South Africa for the day to bid £240 for three Dinky sports cars in their original boxes. Another paid £209 for a battered, empty, 1938 box, decorated with pencil graffiti, which once contained six aeroplanes.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SOME NUMBERS DO NOT CHANGE ON PHONEDAY.

Easter Sunday, 16th April 1995 is Phoneday, when all UK area codes starting 0 will start 01. However, calls to mobile, free phone and other special service numbers are not affected. So remember there is no change when you call these numbers. For more information please ring the BT helpline on **Freefone 0800 01 01 01**.

16 APRIL 1995

PHONE DAY

AREA CODES STARTING 0 WILL START 01

Whipless MPs join protest by fishermen

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 West Country trawlermen burnt the European Union flag yesterday and called for Britain's withdrawal from the common fisheries policy.

Many of the trawlermen at their meeting in Plymouth wore badges and T-shirts emblazoned with the maple leaf to show their support for Canada in its fish feud off Newfoundland with the EU and Spain.

The meeting was attended by several MPs, including two whipless Euro-rebels, Christopher Gill and Sir Richard Body, who advocate the restoration of national control over Britain's fishing grounds.

Fishermen cheered every mention of Canada and every attack on the EU. A message of support from Jean Chrétien, the Canadian prime minister, drew prolonged applause.

Robert Hicks, Tory MP for Cornwall South East, was jeered when he said that no Government could take Britain out of the common fisheries policy (CFP), however unsatisfactory it might be.

"The CFP is a shambles and there is no doubting it has an adverse effect on our own fishing industry. But we are locked into an international agreement and membership of the European Community, and if anyone thinks any British Government of any political persuasion will withdraw unilaterally, they are mistaken," he said.

Mr Gill, MP for Ludlow, was greeted more warmly when called for the policy to be "terminated forthwith". He added: "I hear politicians who say this cannot be done. That is not so. Parliament can do whatever it wants to do." Donald Webb, chairman of the Looe Harbour Commissioners, said: "The British fishing industry is being made a scapegoat."

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Tunku Varadarajan, page 16
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TUC chief warns Blunkett against blaming teachers

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT came under pressure yesterday to abandon plans to shut failing schools after a fierce attack by John Monks, general secretary of the TUC. He warned the Shadow Education Secretary against adopting a football-style "sack the manager" approach to teachers struggling in difficult circumstances.

Mr Monks said he would seek a meeting with Mr Blunkett. The TUC wanted a more comprehensive strategy to tackle poor schools while recognising their funding problems and the social and economic disadvantages of pupils. He said: "The area of concern Mr Blunkett is seeking to emphasise will give the wrong impression to teachers and to representative organisations, including the TUC."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the ATL, highlighted the profession's impotence at Mr Blunkett's attempts to court parents as a champion of high standards and old-fashioned discipline by attacking Labour's "soundbite solutions" to truancy, bad schools and teachers. He said education needed a vision from politicians rather than empty sloganeering.

Mr Blunkett, responding to attacks teachers doing their jobs well. He said: "We should distinguish between being tough on failure and mediocrity from being tough on those who are struggling to deliver the goods. What I am talking about is doing what you would expect in any other industry or service."

He added: "John Monks should talk to a few football fans. Any football supporter knows that a good manager is important to keep up the morale and motivation of the team. The idea that market forces should destroy a school rather than making a fresh start by creating anew, is a strange notion of how we should defend public services."

Mr Smith also said the conference that sleaze at Westminster was putting young people off politics and that a generation could be turning its back on the machinery of democracy, and even democracy itself.



Monks: seeking a more comprehensive strategy

Inspectors 'rude and bullying'

By BEN PRESTON

TEACHERS yesterday accused inspectors of rudeness, arrogance and bullying tactics. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers voted overwhelmingly to open a register to list complaints against the Government's new inspection regime.

The decision reflects widespread suspicion and hostility within the profession towards the system that requires all state schools to be inspected by freelance teams every four years. Ministers regard inspection as a cornerstone of their policy to make schools

more accountable. Teachers at the 135,000-strong union's conference said yesterday that the behaviour of inspectors for the Office for Standards in Education often breached their own code of conduct. A survey of 25 association branches found that more than a third found inspectors to be "arrogant, rude and bullying". More than half said the fear of inspection led to increased teacher absenteeism.

Peter Smith, the association's general secretary, said: "This is not teachers squealing but it is a real concern that

teams of outsiders of varying quality ride into school and ride out again leaving teachers to pick up the consequences of their often hasty judgments."

Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, said: "It would be astonishing if there were no criticisms after inspecting about 3,000 schools in 18 months but Ofsted has only received 64 formal complaints from schools," he said. He invited teachers who believed their code of conduct to be broken to complain in writing.



Linda Newell in 1993

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By NICHOLAS WOOD

HOMELIFE

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Murderer tied weights to schoolgirl and dumped her in canal



Lindsay, went to shop

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Lindsay Rimer believe the 13-year-old died on the night she disappeared five months ago. They suspect Lindsay's weighted body was shipped into a canal hours before the alarm was raised by her family the following morning.

Yesterday, the day after her body was found in the Rochdale Canal near her home in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, police said they thought Lindsay knew her killer.

An initial post-mortem examination

by Professor Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, failed to find an obvious cause of death and further tests are being conducted. Detective Superintendent Tony Whittle, who is leading the investigation, said: "Despite that, I am satisfied that Lindsay was murdered. My reason for that belief is that the body was weighted down and put in the canal."

"It is more than likely she knew her killer. She was quite a cautious girl, not streetwise, she is more likely to have got into a vehicle with someone she trusted. Whoever did this is bound to have been affected

by it and I believe there is someone within the community who perhaps, since November 8, has suspected they know the identity of the person responsible."

Lindsay disappeared soon after she bought a packet of cereal from a grocer's shop in the centre of Hebden Bridge where she had gone on the night of November 7. Gordon Rimer, 45, her father, later said that he had seen her go out to the shop and had assumed she had gone straight to bed on her return. Neither he nor her mother, Geraldine, 42, had checked her room.

Her fully clothed body was seen

floating in the canal by Calderdale council workmen. Recent dredging work is thought to have disturbed the bottom. Detectives were yesterday examining mud from the scene. Bouquets of flowers had been laid near by.

Parts of the canal and the River Calder, which runs close to the street where the Rimer family lives, were searched by police divers last November, but yesterday Mr Whittle admitted they had not searched the area where the body was discovered. He said: "The indication to us was that Lindsay disappeared on her way home. If she

went into the canal the flow of water would have taken her body in the other direction. It was a mistake, I recognise that fact."

Lindsay's parents were not at their terrace home yesterday. In a statement they said that the discovery of her body had "ended five months of anguish and worry in the most abrupt and final way. It ended a hope that has sustained us throughout this period." They thanked "the ordinary people of our community and beyond" for their kindness and support.

"Although we now know what has happened to our daughter, the

circumstances around her death remain unclear. We will not rest until we have determined what happened."

The Rimers have three other children: Kate, 20; Daniel, 13; and one-year-old Juliet. Mark Clydes, 38, a close friend and chairman of the Find Lindsay Rimer Appeal, said of the parents: "They have coped extremely well with this and are continuing to do so. It has taken a lot of courage to come this far but I don't think that will desert them now. I think the assumption is that whoever has done this came from within our community."

I'm skint, claims drug mastermind behind £1bn trade

By Emma Wilkins and Edward Owen

HOWARD MARKS, the Oxford graduate who was released after five years in an American jail for racketeering, claimed yesterday that he had "died" to profit from 20 years of drug smuggling.

Mr Marks, 49, who had been sentenced to 25 years, once controlled a drugs cartel responsible for shipping cannabis into Britain and America worth £1 billion.

As Mr Marks celebrated his reunion with his wife Judith, 40, and children Amber, 17, Francesca, 14, and Patrick, 8, at their home in Palma, Majorca, he said he was considering a more scholarly career.

Drug Enforcement Agency investigators in America believe Mr Marks has hidden away millions of pounds in illicit profits, possibly in Middle Eastern bank accounts. Mr Marks said his only Swiss bank account had already been confiscated.

"There aren't any bank accounts. I'm absolutely skint. Anyone who can find them is welcome to all of them as long as they give me a nice living wage out of them."

Mr Marks, known to his jailers at Oakdale Prison, Louisiana, as the Marco Polo of Pot, was extradited from Spain to America six years ago after a "sting" operation involving the late Lord Moynehan, the former Sports Minister. Lord Moynehan,

who lived in Manila with a succession of wives and owned a brothel, was persuaded by enforcement officers to tape Mr Marks discussing a drug deal. Mr Marks later said that Lord Moynehan had never forgiven him for winning at Trivial Pursuit.

"It's absolutely wonderful to be back home," Mr Marks said. "I have not seen my son Patrick since I left Spain in October 1989. He's now eight."

Mr Marks, the son of a Welsh merchant navy captain, has long favoured the legalisation of cannabis and opposed the abuse of heroin and cocaine. "I think that prohibition causes a lot of unnecessary criminal activity," he said.

Mr Marks's university reputation as an affable rogue was enhanced when he went on the run from police for

seven years after his arrest in 1973 on drug smuggling charges. He was finally captured at the bar of an hotel in Lavenham, Suffolk, as he ordered a dry sherry.

While on remand in 1980 he was let out of Brixton prison for the day to marry his present wife.

After telling the jury at his trial that he was an MI6 agent, Mr Marks was acquitted of drug running, but served six months in prison for the 1973 charge from which he had jumped bail.

While in prison in America, Marks took several courses to add to his second-class degree in physics and a postgraduate qualification in the philosophy of science. He also taught grammar and linguistics.

Mr Marks, who was on remand for two years before his conviction at a Miami court in 1990, was freed because his original sentence was reduced to 20 years at a hearing last year.

"The judge felt I had been punished too harshly - not being allowed to see my wife and not being transferred to a British prison," he said. "He knocked five years off, which made me eligible for parole."

Mr Marks's flight from America landed in Britain last weekend. He was allowed to leave for Majorca because there were no police warrants for him in Britain.



Marks: studied in jail



David and Annabel Stapleton on their pathway. "Private: No Footpath" signs have been erected but villagers "are welcome any time"

Couple enjoy room with a deserted view

By Andrew Pierce

A COUPLE have won a 10-year battle to decide who has right of way to a picturesque nature trail 200ft from the drawing room window of their 18th-century Cornish home.

For 40 years the respective owners of the 11-bedroom Armathwaite Place have given privileged access to the private path on their 3,000-acre estate to residents of Armathwaite village near Appleby. However in 1992, when Cumbria County Council redrew its maps, it decreed that the walkway, a baby arbutum that is a haven for flora and fauna, was a public right of way. The 1980 Highways Act states

that tracks are presumed to have been dedicated as footpaths for eternity if they had been used by the public without interruption, as of right, for 20 years.

However, David and Annabel Stapleton, who bought the house in 1975, fiercely objected to the council's interpretation of the Act. Notices warning people to stay off the land had been in place for decades.

Mr Stapleton, 60, an investment adviser, said: "We were being penalised by an overzealous local authority which decided because we had been generous enough to continue a rural tradition that it enabled the whole world to come and trample all

over our home. We were not taking that lying down." The matter was aired at two public inquiries. The couple lost the second but took their case to the Appeal Court. They won.

Mr Justice Owen said he could not find fault with the Department of Environment inspector's finding that Armathwaite villagers had enjoyed access to the path for at least 20 years before 1975. Where he had erred was in finding that there had been an intention on the part of past owners of the property that it should be dedicated as a footpath.

He said the inspector had not given proper weight to evidence of local people who told how in years gone by

a gardener at the house used to order children off the path as trespassers on private property.

Mr Stapleton said: "The whole case has been a disgrace. The owner of this house from 1914 to 1957 was strict: no one was allowed on that walkway. The second owner was more relaxed and allowed the local villagers to walk the land. It was soon after the war, before the full dawn of the age of the motor car, and only a handful of people would stroll by."

Last night new signs saying "Private: No Footpath" were going up on the land. "I hope these ones are here to stay," Mr Stapleton said. "And the villagers are welcome any time."

Sex row solicitor 'danced too close'

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE vice-president of the Law Society, who is being investigated over claims of sexual harassment, claimed yesterday that he had done "nothing" to dance too closely with a woman.

John Young, 60, pulled out of the election for president of the society after the allegations. However, he claims that the complaints against him were "minor accusations".

Mr Young, a senior partner with City solicitors Cameron, Markby Hewitt, surprised the Law Society by speaking out over claims that he had sexually harassed female staff and Eileen Pembroke, a member of the society's ruling council who is also challenging for the presidency.

He said: "These allegations would not have been taken seriously a few years ago. This whole saga was closed two years ago and there was nothing to prevent me standing."

Mr Young from Sevenoaks, Kent, pulled out of the presidential race only days after Ms Pembroke told a legal conference that allegations of sexual harassment had been made against a senior member of the council.

Yesterday Ms Pembroke, 51, said in a statement: "I am sorry that he has had to retire from the race over this."

She said that on Mr Young's election to deputy vice-president she had raised the concerns of herself and a number of women council members and staff over numerous allegations and certain specific incidents.

The allegations were investigated by Mark Sheldon, a past president of the Society. Mr Young was given a warning and gave an assurance about his future behaviour. Mr Sheldon said: "Either I or one of my colleagues discussed the matter carefully with each of the other parties involved. None of them viewed the conduct as in any way serious. None had any wish to lodge a complaint."

Stranger noticed near scene of farmhouse killing

By Dominic Kennedy

TWO women are being interviewed after telephoning police to say they were approached by a stranger in recent weeks near the Buckinghamshire farmhouse where Janet Brown was found murdered.

Neither reported the incident at the time but they responded separately to police pleas for information after Mrs Brown was found dead on Tuesday. Although the man did not threaten or speak to them, they were alarmed by his intense demeanour.

It was disclosed yesterday that a television set was found unplugged close to the naked and handcuffed body of Mrs Brown in her remote farmhouse outside Radnage. Mrs Brown, 51, a nurse, always left the set plugged in at night, her family has told police. The discovery appears to add weight to the theory that she had disturbed a burglar. However, detectives remained keen to follow other lines of inquiry, curious that a woman should meet such a death for the sake of a television.

Mrs Brown's widower, Dr Graham Brown, a research chemist who works in Basle, Switzerland, was too distressed yesterday to continue helping police. He had voluntarily told them where he was

and with whom, at the time of his wife's death in case he was a suspect.

"He is being as helpful as he can," Detective Superintendent Michael Short, leading the inquiry, said. "He insisted for his family to be interviewed for him to give us every bit of information. Because of our trauma we have had to leave it today." Dr Brown, and the couple's older children Zara, 22, and Benedict, 21, live away from home. Their daughter Roxanne, 17, was staying with friends when Mrs Brown was murdered.

They have been too upset to return to the farm to identify whether anything has been stolen, although police say that no valuables were obviously missing.

Among the items untouched is a shotgun kept locked upstairs and used for sport. Its existence adds to the mystery over why Mrs Brown would walk downstairs naked after hearing noises. The burglar alarm was ringing when she was found and could have been activated by a panic button in the bedroom if she had heard a burglar. But she also had a telephone upstairs, and most women would be more likely to dial 999 than confront an intruder, detectives believe.

MP charged over pickaxe

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE former Scottish Office minister Allan Stewart is to appear in court on a charge of breach of the peace. The minister resigned in February after allegations that he had brandished a pickaxe at protesters demonstrating against the construction of the M77 in Glasgow.

At the time Mr Stewart said he was holding the pickaxe to protect himself and to prevent it falling into the wrong hands. Mr Stewart's son Jack, 17, and his son's friend, David Clow, 16, have been charged with firearms offences. They

are due to appear at Paisley Sheriff Court on May 23.

Mr Stewart, the Conservative MP for Eastwood, has been charged with committing a breach of the peace at Pollok Castle estate, Newton Mearns, on February 5.

His son has been charged with two contraventions of the Firearms Act. One relates to the alleged possession of a loaded airgun in a public place without authority or reasonable excuse. The other alleges possession of an airgun by a person under 17.

David Clow has also been

Overwork blamed for GP's suicide

By Marianne Darch

AN OVERWORKED doctor left a note for his wife attached to a Valentine's Day balloon before killing himself with a shotgun, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Anthony Presley was facing family and work problems when he shot himself on a country footpath at Harescombe, Gloucestershire, on March 1, while on sick leave. His wife Christine told the inquest at Gloucester Coroner's Court that lack of sleep caused by night calls led to a deterioration in his health.

The inquest was also told that Dr Presley, 45, of Gloucester, had recently received a warning letter from social service chiefs saying that he was not "going by the rules" when people were put into care.

On the day of his death, his wife returned home to find that he had left her a note attached to a balloon he had given her on February 14. Two horse riders found Dr Presley lying by his Audi car, still alive, on part of the Cotswold Way footpath. His shotgun was in the vehicle with one chamber discharged. He died before emergency services reached him. The coroner recorded a suicide verdict.



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New vote on women priests in Wales

A SECOND wave of 100,000 women is expected to vote in the Church in Wales election next week. The 1992 year ago was the first time votes of women were counted.

A Bill allowing women to be ordained in the Church of England goes before a committee today for a first reading. It is expected earlier than the 1992 campaigners had hoped.

Welsh women have not yet moved to England to be priestly ordination candidates as much longer.

The earlier decision was widely seen as a victory for the may. Bishops also have been struggling in America to keep the Church of England's rules ordained priests more than 35 years.

Details of the new decision outlined in Canon were given by the Right Rev. John May, Bishop of St. Edmund, who believes the introduction of women priests is essential to help its character of diversity.

The Bill will require the reading in September of each year, when a two-thirds majority is needed, of the canons of the houses of bishops, clergy and laity. It includes a "conscience clause" in which members of parishes objecting to priests in their area would automatically vote against the canon.

Members of a Church of England congregation opposed to the ordination of women and the church's stance on homosexuality pronounced last night that they were forming a breakaway group.

Eighteen members of Barnabas and St. John's Church in Newcastle upon Tyne will form the Newcastle Reform Evangelical Church. They do not yet have a meeting place.

**Bilby's
on East**
BY NICK NUTTALL, LEAD

AUSTRALIAN environmentalists are campaigning to replace the traditional Easter bunny with a threatened species called the grey bilby.

One chocolate manufacturer in South Australia designed a mould for shaped chocolate and children's books about Easter Bilby are selling.

Margaret Moore, of National Threatened Species Network, which wants bilby featured on Easter cards, said yesterday: "bilby is a native marsupial and is a more relevant than the introduced pear-shaped rabbit."

Dr David Batchelor, of World Wide Fund for Nature, said: "The rabbit is a symbol of everything done wrong in Australia. It introduced a totally inappropriate animal which over the habitat of our species and led to the mice. From the conservation point of view, with the



But the hullabaloo doesn't stop there. On a limited range of cars over Easter you'll find Peugeot's 'Silver Seal Deal'.

So don't end up with egg on your face, steal
a march down to Peugeot this
Easter. You'll think it's Christmas.

[illegible]

طائر امير الازهر

Macmillan trustees sell major stake to Germans

By DALYA ALBERGE AND MARTIN WALLER

A GERMAN family-owned publishing company has acquired a majority stake in Macmillan, the last of the leading British family-owned publishing companies.

The publishing and media business founded by the Holzbach family in 1971 has bought almost two-thirds of Macmillan Ltd, founded in 1945, the holding company of a worldwide publishing group with £250 million annual sales owned by trusts for the Macmillan family.

Harold Macmillan, the former Prime Minister, was chairman of the publishers from 1963-67, and chairman of the parent company, Macmillan (Holdings) Ltd, from 1963-1974.

Macmillan counts Ken Follet, Dick Francis and Jackie Collins among its best-selling authors. The company has 2,000 employees.

The sale has come about because the family trustees, who hold 90 per cent of Macmillan shares, felt the need to find a more widely spread source of income for the trusts they administer.

Some 70 per cent of Macmillan is being sold at a price that values the company at £285 million. Macmillan will continue to be run independently. Holzbach had net sales of about £1 billion in 1994. The group employs 7,000 staff.

The publishing trade was unanimous in saying that foreign ownership was unlikely to affect the British market. First News, Editor of Publishing News, said that the marrying of the two companies was a suitable match.



Collins: a best-selling author for Macmillan

Both have educational titles, strong trade publications, and magazines (Macmillan owns Nature and Nursing Times; the German group owns Scientific American).

Louis Baum, Editor of The Bookseller, said that Harold Macmillan would not be turning in his grave. The trustees could have chosen another course, such as breaking up the company or going to the City for extra finance.

"I see Macmillan operating as it always has," Mr Baum said. "Majority ownership by an overseas company will not be an operational factor. It makes it more likely they will carry on with long-term philosophies."

He was among several who pointed out that the publishing world had become international. Penguin, for example, owns a substantial American operation. British publishers Jonathan Cape, Hutchinson and Corgi & Windus are part of Random House, the American-owned group, and Methuen and Secker and Warburg are part of Reed International Books,

owned by Reed Elsevier, an Anglo-Dutch group. "I haven't seen any evidence of foreign ownership of UK companies being disadvantageous to UK publishing," Mr Baum said.

Two recent events have conspired to overshadow the book sector. Last summer a number of big retailers decided to cut back heavily on the number of titles on their shelves, which led to a significant slump in sales by publishers and printers.

Last Christmas one of the big high street booksellers went bust. Dillons was dragged under by the financial difficulties of its parent Penso, and as a result a number of publishers suffered losses.

Derek Terrington, printing and publishing analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, said: "The market is not impressed with books. The decision by Macmillan to sell, after contemplating a flotation for a long period, is a curious one and seems to indicate some confusion in attitudes or an inability to agree."



Luciano Pavarotti sings King Gustavus in the final dress rehearsal for a revival of the Royal Opera House production of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* which opened last night. The American soprano Deborah Voigt sings Amelia

Meningitis victim's family sues authority

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE family of a 16-year-old girl who died of meningitis shortly after a classmate was killed by the same strain is suing a health authority for negligence.

Sophie Deacon, from Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, died three weeks after Zoe Townsend, 16, who also attended The King Alfred County School, fell prey to the meningococcal strain of the bacterium. Somerset Health Authority did not release details of Miss Townsend's death under a confidentiality clause.

Miss Deacon's mother, Christine, and her uncle, Steven Fear, say that she might have been saved if parents at the school had been made aware of the circumstances surrounding Miss Townsend's death.

Ian Smith, the authority's chief executive, said: "Our solicitors are currently dealing with the matter. We have every sympathy for Sophie's family but we cannot comment at this stage."

New vote on women priests in Wales

By RUTH GLENDILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND attempt to introduce women priests into the Church in Wales will begin next week. The first attempt a year ago was defeated by the votes of seven clergymen.

A Bill allowing women to be ordained in the Welsh arm of the Anglican communion will go before its governing body for a first reading, five months earlier than planned. Campaigners fear many of the 60 Welsh women deacons will move to England if their priestly ordination is delayed much longer.

The earlier defeat caused widespread anger and dismay. Bishops and laity voted strongly in favour of following the Church of England, which ordained its first women priests more than a year ago.

Details of the new Bill were outlined in Cardiff yesterday by the Right Rev Ivor Rees, Bishop of St David's. He believes the introduction of women priests in England will help its chance of success.

The Bill will receive a final reading in September next year, when a two-thirds majority is needed in all three houses of bishops, clergy and laity. It includes a "conscience clause" in which clergymen or parishes objecting to women priests in their area would not automatically be disciplined.

Members of a Church of England congregation opposed to the ordination of women and the church's stance on homosexuality announced last night that they were forming a breakaway group.

Eighteen members of St Barnabas and St Jude, Newcastle upon Tyne, will form the Newcastle Reformed Evangelical Church. They do not yet have a meeting place.

Dr Hope interview, page 15
Leading article, page 17

Bilby's revenge on Easter bunny

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIAN environmentalists are campaigning to replace the traditional Easter bunny with a threatened marsupial called the greater bilby.

One chocolate manufacturer in South Australia has designed a mould for bilby-shaped chocolate and two children's books about the Easter Bilby are selling well.

Margaret Moore, of the National Threatened Species Network, which wants the bilby featured on Easter cards, said yesterday: "The bilby is a native marsupial and is a more relevant image than the introduced European rabbit."

Dr David Butler, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, said: "The rabbit is a symbol of everything we've done wrong in Australia. We introduced a totally inappropriate animal which took over the habitat of our native species and led to their demise. From the conservation point of view, with the Easter

Radio 4 'God slot' to keep the faith

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has dropped plans to allow atheists on the "Thought for the Day" slot in Radio 4's Today programme, which has been the reserve of religious speakers for more than 20 years.

The Rev Ernest Rae, head of BBC religious broadcasting, said that allowing non-believers to present the three-minute daily slot might have turned it into an exercise in "God bashing".

It is more than 12 months since the BBC considered allowing humanists, secularists or agnostics on "Thought for the Day". Mr Rae said the decision, outlined in the corporation's recently completed religious programmes strategy review document, was taken after consultation with humanist and religious groups.

"Thought for the Day" is there to give a distinctiveness and to throw a different light on news events," he said. "If you secularise it then you dilute that special perspective."

"If you approach a particular slot from the point of view that you don't believe in God, you will move from giving ethical comment on the news to putting your own political viewpoint. It would inevitably turn into an exercise in denying God."

Mr Rae said non-believers were already well represented on other BBC religious programmes. He said the decision could be justified because 72 per cent of the population said they believed in God and 15 per cent said they were active members of religious organisations.

Barbara Smoker, of the National Secular Society, said she was disappointed by the decision but not surprised. "We represent about a third of the population but we don't have a special slot," she said.

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'Civil disobedience or obstruction of lorries is justified. A lot of people are prepared to be arrested'

Livestock militants promise to renew picketing at ports

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are preparing for renewed conflict with animal rights activists after hardcore protesters threatened to break the law in their campaign to stop the export of livestock.

Animal shipments are expected to resume from Dover towards the end of next week after the High Court ruled on Wednesday that bans imposed on the traffic were illegal and a surrender to mob rule. Dover is the most convenient outlet for the livestock trade because

of its proximity to the Continent and extensive roll-on, roll-off facilities.

Kent Police said they were rearranging duty rosters, restricting rest days and giving officers extra training in public order maintenance as part of contingency plans to deal with expected demonstrations.

Yesterday, about 30 protesters, many of them middle-aged women, assembled at Dover Eastern Docks in a muted preview of the possible

trouble ahead. Waving banners, they gathered round a life-size model of a calf in a "veal crate" of the kind in which many exported animals are reared.

Philip Lymbery, of the moderate Compassion in World Farming, said: "This was a token demonstration to show that the campaign will go on despite the court ruling. Any event or protest we put together will be run along strictly peaceful and lawful lines. We are not here to stop lorries. We are here to tell the trade it has got to stop."

More militant groups made clear that they would not be satisfied with waving banners. Mike Nunn, secretary of the South East Animal Coalition, said: "This trade is morally wrong in my view. Just because a judge in London says it is the law does not mean I have to abide by it."

Mr Nunn, who used to run a chain of butcher's shops but

became a vegan after reading a pamphlet on vivisection, added: "We do not approve of attacking lorries because that could hurt other human beings. But any sort of civil disobedience or obstruction of lorries is justified. A lot of people are prepared to be arrested."

All protesters reject the view of Lord Justice Simon Brown that port demonstrations are

now pointless and that a decision on whether to ban the livestock trade should be left to Parliament. Sylvia O'Brien, of the Thames Animal Group, said: "The animals have no spokesmen but us and democracy is not working."

A spokesman for Kent Police, which has 3,100 men at its disposal, said: "Our aim will be to uphold the law and keep the disruption to Dover

to the minimum. We hope we will be able to do this without calling in reinforcements from other counties."

The police are worried that disturbances at Dover could cause traffic chaos during the busy holiday period. The port handles 19.1 million passengers a year, 3.2 million cars and 157,000 coaches.

Police in Sussex have already warned exporters at

Shoreham that they will be restricted from April 24 to two sailings a week because the police can no longer provide daily escorts for livestock lorries. Lorries turning up on other days risk being charged with causing a breach of the peace.

By contrast, Essex Police have promised a clampdown on demonstrations at Brightlingsea from Tuesday,

warning protesters that they risk arrest and prosecution if they obstruct lorries trying to enter the port.

The local campaign group, Brightlingsea Against Live Exports, plans formally to disband on Monday so that the organisation cannot be held legally responsible for the actions of demonstrators.

Leading article, page 1



Protesters at Dover yesterday provided a small taste of demonstrations to come after a judge lifted the ban on live animal exports from the port.

Airport group digs in

A GROUP of animal rights activists was in defiant mood opposite the entrance to Coventry airport yesterday where the makings of an encampment were set up. Some protesters promised to break the law if necessary to further their campaign after the High Court ruling. Lorries carrying

veal calves have used the same entrance in the past. As the protesters sunbathed on the grass while waiting for the next consignment — watched by a dozen police, some on horseback — they were united in saying: "We are not going away. We will be here until this trade is stopped."

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Oldest IVF woman has a girl

The oldest woman in Britain to have test-tube fertility treatment has had a daughter. The child, Lauren Jade, was born to 51-year-old Pauline Lyon, of March, Cambridgeshire, by Caesarean section at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, on Wednesday. The hospital said that the mother and 6lb 5oz baby were well. Mrs Lyon has a daughter from a previous marriage.

The film *Reservoir Dogs* has been passed for release on video after the board of film classification overturned its 1993 ruling that it was too violent for home viewing.

Jason Donovan, the actor and pop singer, is to return to the stage playing Billy Liar. Donovan, 26, will tour with the new show *Billy* before a West End opening next spring.

A man fell 50ft to his death after burgling a neighbour's flat in Newcastle upon Tyne. After the body of Terence Simpson, 41, was found, police recovered stolen goods.

Michael Mills, 10, of Bow, east London, was strangled after becoming entangled with his sister's skipping rope, an inquest in Poplar was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Mechanics received an Easter surprise when a three-week-old rabbit hopped out from under the bonnet of a Renault 5 at their garage at Lynton, Hampshire.

Britons head for Italy as lira falls

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

DEMAND for Easter breaks in Italy has soared after the collapse in the value of the franc. Tour operators say they have been inundated with requests for last-minute holidays in Italy — rather than in France, where the value of the franc continues to increase.

There is not a seat to be had on flights to Italy throughout the whole of the Easter season, the Italian Tourist Board in London said. Yasmin Sehnna of the Travel Group, who specialises in Italian holidays, said that demand for many areas was up by almost 40 per cent. "People are starting to become aware of how inexpensive Italy has become."

The lira was trading at about 2,750 to the pound yesterday compared with 2,300 a year ago. Spending money, it is claimed, will go up to 30 per cent further than in France where there are only about 7.5 francs to the pound compared with 8.3 a year ago. A loaf of bread in Italy costs the equivalent of 50p, a litre of milk 37p and a bottle of wine £1.29 on average. An evening meal in a trattoria will cost under £10 a head.

Thomas Cook has had to order extra lire for its 500 exchange bureaux to meet a 35 per cent increase in demand over the last three weeks. A spokesman said: "Package holidays to Italy are at least 50 per cent up on last year. The rise in the value of the franc, however, has meant that bookings for France are around 20 per cent down."

Easter getaway, page 1
Tourist prices, page 12

Sales of chocolate eggs reach £300m

By PAMELA SHARPLESS

SALES of Easter eggs will hit a record £300 million this year, an increase of 25 per cent over the past four years. Children take the biggest share of the market at 37.1 per cent, teenagers 31.7 per cent and adults 31.2 per cent.

Most shops open today but many will close on Sunday. Advertised offers include: Asda: Asda iris, 95p a lb. Open: today and tomorrow. Check individual stores for Sunday and Monday.

Budget: Brussels/Ardennes past (loose from deli) 49p a 4lb. Open: today, tomorrow and Monday. Some stores open Sunday.

Co-op: Red Mountain instant coffee (100g) £1.99, McVities American Dream Alabama fudge cake/Banoffi pie £1.79. Open: check with stores.

Harrods: stichel cakes, from £6 to £20. Open: today, tomorrow and Monday. Iceland: single cream 99p a pint; roast mix — potatoes, parsnips and stuffing balls — 99p. Open: today, tomorrow and Monday. Marks & Spencer: cauliflower, broccoli and carrots, mix bag 99p; two beef and onion puff pasties, 99p. Open: most stores today, tomorrow and selected stores on Monday.

Sainsbury: British beef gammon on the bone unsmoked, 95p a lb. Open: check with stores. Sainsbury: Sara Lee Double Chocolate Gâteau (340g) 99p; white grapefruit 18p each. Open: check with stores, closed Sunday.

Somerfield/Gateway: black grapes loose 54p a lb, salmon spreading pâté (113g) 39p. Open: today, tomorrow and Monday.

Tesco: king prawns £1.99 for 4lb; fresh, double cream (284ml) 59p. Open: today and tomorrow. Check with stores for Monday.

Waitrose: Continental breakfast selection (6 packs) 69p; Ruddles best bitter (4x275ml) £1.99. Open: check with stores. Oddbins: N.V. Perrier Jouet Champagne, buy two for £28 and save £5.58.

Pollut for in

By JEREMY...

GLORIOUS for the... counts... past... rise in... male... cord... There... that the... is linked... hormone... environment... from... France... mark... The group... Nils... was the first... serve... sperm... of the... levels of... first three... ey could be... Danish... that research... environment... male fertility.



Clue of Aic

Dr Th...

A few years ago... went to the... department... Moorfields Eye Hos... London. The waiting... was packed but she... were empty... side of a diffident you... A second glance told he... his face was disfigure... dark red, round... plaques of Kaposi's... the tumour that is com... patients who are HIV... five. Aware that HIV... caught by sitting... strangers, she was able... in comfort. One of the puzzles of... cine has been why p... who develop Kaposi's... ma have usually caught... through sexual contact... as those who have... infected by blood trans... are spared. This riddle may have... solved by pathologists... ing at Columbia Uni... New York. General Pr... ner magazine report... similarities have been... between DNA recover... the sarcoma and that K... viruses of the human... was demonstrated in... per cent of patients with... related sarcoma, in wh... Kaposi's sarcoma who... Dr Thomas Stuttgort... in The Times on the Body... in Home News on Mond...

Industry losing £100m a year

Hi-tech thieves steal airtime on mobile phones

BY LYN JENKINS

THE mobile telephone industry is pressing the Government for tougher laws to curb fraud and crime, which is costing the business more than £100 million a year.

Dealing in stolen equipment and number codes is one of the fastest growing areas of crime in the country. Two in every five car break-ins in the Metropolitan Police area involve the theft of mobile telephones.

The industry is particularly alarmed by the theft of airtime, where criminals use sophisticated scanners to pick up the telephone number and electronic serial number of a mobile telephone. They reprogramme stolen equipment with the two numbers and sell it. Such mobile telephones are often sold in pubs, with the buyer told that he has a limited amount of time before the fraud is detected and the service suspended. The calls are billed to the legitimate holder of the telephone number.

Christopher Webb, of the Federation of Communications Services, said: "The bill can be very great, especially if the phone is used for overseas calls. We know of instances where £15,000 worth of calls have been made."

The networks are wise to the

practice and monitor normal usage on lines. If the pattern changes markedly — for example, a subscriber who normally makes less than 15 calls a day clocks up a £100 bill — the service will be suspended until checks are made to see if the rightful owner is making the calls.

Criminals can gather thousands of numbers in one day using a scanner, often at airport terminals or motorway service areas. "We have yet to hear of a subscriber who has had to foot the bill, but it is very inconvenient," Mr Webb said.

The industry believes the problem would be solved if the Government outlawed the "re-chipping" of telephones. "The electronic serial number should be an integral part of the mobile telephone," Mr Webb said.

More than 15,000 mobile telephones are stolen, cloned or scanned each month, yet there are few prosecutions. The Home Office does not consider scanners to be illegal unless they are used with criminal intent. It is also very difficult to prove that a recharged telephone has been stolen.

Trying to trace the users of

stolen airtime on recharged telephones is fraught with problems. A log of calls might suggest a culprit, but it falls short of the proof required for a successful prosecution. For the three million mobile phone users, the best advice is to insure their equipment.

Digital telephones, which are replacing the analogue service, are less susceptible to scanning. However, the industry believes the rewards from fraud are such that it is only a matter of time before the criminals catch up with the technological developments.

Roman Catholic Church authorities are investigating how a presbytery in Ireland received a huge telephone bill for calls to sex lines. The local priest has assured parishioners that the culprit was not from the church. Canon Denis O'Mahony said that the bill had been run up by someone taking advantage of the vulnerability to fraud of cordless telephones.

The itemised bill sent to the presbytery at Castleisland, Co Kerry, showed up to two calls a day to sex lines over two months, at a cost totalling £18,000. The church has now dispensed with the cordless phone.



The QE2 returning to her home port of Southampton early yesterday morning after her four-month world cruise that started disastrously

Refit storm blows over as QE2 sails home

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE passengers who left Southampton last December on the refitted QE2, which was in a "horrible condition", returned yesterday having put the troubles behind them.

"Eventually we had a fabulous time," Bill Cowie, 66, a retired company director, said. Mr Cowie paid about £50,000 for the world cruise for himself and his wife. "We waited eight hours for our cabin and when we

found it the toilet didn't flush and we had no electricity," he said.

Just hours before the Cunard flagship was due to set sail after its £30 million refit, 500 passengers were told they could not embark because bathrooms were not ready.

Cunard has compensated passengers but Mr Cowie said: "She should not have set sail before she was ready and



Liner's happy return

then nobody would have been dissatisfied." Virene Wells, 88, of Rockford, Essex, had to sleep

on chairs in the ship's ballroom when she found her cabin had not been completed. "After three days I decided I was not going to be treated like this and I went off to find my cabin," she said. "I laid down on the bed and it collapsed. I rolled off and knocked my head on a chest of drawers."

"When I went to have a shower the water scalded me and part of the roof fell down and hit me. I did regret going for a long time — I have never

seen a ship with so much trouble."

Another passenger criticised the people who are suing Cunard. Bill Semmens, 65, a retired builder of Sarisbury, Hampshire, said: "They are just trying to make a fast buck — they should be chucked overboard. I was given a free transatlantic cruise and to me that was like winning the lottery."

About 450 passengers were continuing on the liner to New York yesterday.

Pollution blamed for infertile men

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

GLOBAL pollution is to blame for the halving of sperm counts among men over the past 30 years and the sharp rise in abnormalities of the male reproductive system, according to scientists.

There is growing evidence that the rise in male infertility is linked to the effects of hormone-like chemicals in the environment, the scientists from Britain, America, France, Finland and Denmark say in a report.

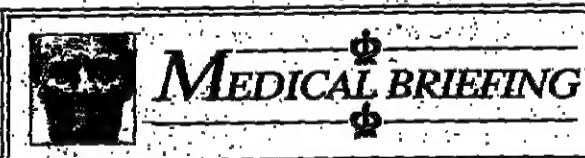
The group, led by Professor Niels Skakkebaek of the University of Copenhagen, who was the first scientist to observe changes in human sperm, says that the exposure of the male fetus to high levels of the chemicals in the first three months of pregnancy could be the vital trigger.

The report, published by the Danish Government, says that research into the effects of environmental pollution on male fertility is now a matter

of urgency. Evidence from intercity clinics suggests that couples in whom the problem is on the male side have risen from one in ten to one in four.

The scientists say the main culprits are chemicals that mimic the effects of the female hormone oestrogen, which plays a key role in the sexual development of the foetus. These chemicals, called xeno-oestrogens, are in wide daily use for industry, agriculture and the home. They include pesticides such as DDT, and industrial chemicals.

In a leading article, *The Lancet* says the findings are a matter for international concern and action. What is particularly worrying, it says, is that defects that may be induced in babies born now may not become apparent for 20 to 40 years. "If further decline is to be prevented, action is needed now to determine the causal factors and ascertain how they operate."



Clue to puzzle of Aids tumour

Dr Thomas Stuttford

A few years ago my wife went to the casualty department at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. The waiting room was packed but she saw there were empty seats on either side of a diffident young man. A second glance told her why: his face was disfigured by the dark red, round raised plaques of Kaposi's sarcoma, the tumour that is common in patients who are HIV positive. Aware that HIV is not caught by sitting beside strangers, she was able to wait in comfort.

One of the puzzles of medicine has been why patients who develop Kaposi's sarcoma have usually caught HIV through sexual contact whereas those who have been infected by blood transfusions are spared.

This riddle may have been solved by pathologists working at Columbia University, New York. *General Practitioner* magazine reports that similarities have been found between DNA recovered from the sarcoma and that found in viruses of the human herpes group. This new viral DNA was demonstrated in over 90 per cent of patients with Aids-related sarcoma, in those with Kaposi's sarcoma who did not

have Aids, but was absent in other people.

This research helps to strengthen the theory that Kaposi's sarcoma may be caught independently, but in a similar way to HIV, and becomes manifest once the immune system starts to break down.

Before HIV became widespread Kaposi's sarcoma was a rare skin tumour found only in patients with Italian or Jewish ancestry. It is now common, and much more virulent, and it is often one of the first signs that the immune system is beginning to crumble and that the patient's illness can now be classified as Aids.

The reddish tumours may be so dark that they appear purple, or nearly black. They not only grow in the skin and the mucosal surfaces, such as the inside of the mouth, but also attack lymph glands and other organs. The skin tumours often appear, as they had in the Moorfield patient, around the centre of the face and nose and are easily visible to strangers. Treatment has hitherto been with interferon or the combination of various cytotoxic drugs. This latest discovery could lead to new forms of therapy.

Dr Thomas Stuttford's medical column appears every weekday in *The Times* on the Body and Mind page on Tuesday and Thursday and in *Home News* on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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Before YOU INVEST - We INVEST

British company helps to restore gentlemanly era before technology invaded the tee

Dawdling golf ball turns game full circle

By Joe Joseph

FLYING in the face of modern sporting technology that can send tennis balls speeding at 120mph and produce football boots sculpted for greater accuracy, an American golf-lover has commissioned a British firm to make antique golf balls that will travel only half the distance the modern meteors can manage.

The throwbacks will add the final touch of authenticity to Oakhurst Links in West Virginia, America's oldest golf club, which he has been restoring to life.

Built in 1884 in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, the course was overrun by 1912 and forgotten until Lewis Keller, a property developer, bought the site and returned the nine holes to their original architecture. Argyll V-necks have been replaced with frock coats and plus fours, and Ping putters by hickory-shafted clubs. The pint-size fairways are trimmed by grazing sheep.

The final problem was finding a source of rubber-filled gutta-percha balls that would

travel only a gentlemanly 150 yards or so instead of the showy 300 yards that big hitters can achieve by wallowing modern aerodynamic, computer-designed balls. The new wonders bear about as much relationship to the original 17th-century leather ball, made of boiled feathers jammed into a small leather sack, as they do to moon rock.

So while tennis federations continue to dither over whether to slow the game with balls that are fluffier, Mr Keller went looking for a manufacturer with the old skills. His choice was Penfold, in Birmingham.

Penfold makes eight million golf balls a year. William Baird, its sales director, said: "The first ones we made for Lewis Keller, from synthetic rubber, were going about 180 to 190 yards."

"The moulds are about 65 years old and our ball's properties will be very similar to the old gutta-percha balls. They have a lattice pattern of square dimples rather than



Golfers on Blackheath using gutta-percha balls and hickory clubs in 1870. Their style will be revived on an American course. Illustration: Hulton Deutsch

the round dimples you get today.

"Our second batch went 170 to 180 yards," Mr Keller wrote to us saying, "We need to reduce the distance to 150 to 160 yards. But the balls feel wonderful when hit with our hickory sticks. So we've been detuning them so they don't go quite so far. The final samples will be going out this week."

Speaking from Oakhurst's restored clubhouse, Mr Keller, who is in his 70s, said that

the course, which hosted America's first known tournament in 1888, plays 1,995 yards. "Modern golf equipment would just overpower the course. It would just not be any fun. Mr Keller would not have any difficulty driving the ball to the green."

"They did not have pars for courses in those days. The lowest score won the hole, and the winner of the hole chose what hole to play next. But if you related it to par today, the

course would be a par 36, using hickory sticks. You could knock six strokes off that if you were using modern equipment."

Penfold is banking on an initial order of 5,000 for its retro balls but reckons that tourist golfers, bad slicers and souvenir shoppers at Oakhurst Links will swell demand. The price is about £2, what a modern top-grade ball costs.

Mr Keller has owned the

land that Oakhurst Links is on since 1960. He always knew there was an antique course hidden under the fields on which he grazed his racehorses — Cary Montague, son of the first owner, left him notes and outlines — but it was not until 1991 that he and his son, Lewis junior, assisted by Bob Cupp, the golf course designer who crafted East Sussex National, started re-searching the project. And it was not until last year that the

course was excavated. It will open for membership and the public next month.

Mr Cupp said: "It was an archaeological exercise, not a design job, and it was a thrill. We took our entire crew up there for eight days and worked in the field — sweating, digging and raking."

"We did most of it by hand and we found soil types in the preparation process that confirmed the green and bunker locations."

Precision designs put goose feathers to flight

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE modern golf ball is far removed from the one that saw the birth of the game in Scotland.

Only 140 years ago players stode around the course with a hand-stitched, leather ball stuffed with goose feathers. Today there are broadly three kinds of ball made for driving ranges, courses and the professionals.

Ranges, which among their ranks attract a high proportion of incurable optimists whose enthusiasm outweighs their fitness, tend to use a moulded, solid ball that is cheap and able to withstand heavy punishment.

Most club players back round with a two-piece ball made of a solid, moulded centre coated with plastic. Some, with deeper pockets, may use the three-piece ball favoured by top professionals made of a liquid or rubber core around which is woven a single, stretched piece of elastic. The outside of the modern professional's ball is a natural rubber called Balata, which gives wonderful backspin.

However, Peter Smewin, works director at Penfold in Birmingham, said that the balls used by the likes of Nick Faldo were unlike those available in the local pro-shop. Golf ball makers can adjust the weight of the central liquid bag, which often contains the heavy salt barium sulphate in a paste, so each one is precisely within the limit of 45.69 grams laid down by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

The compression, a measure of hardness, of high-quality golf balls is normally 70 or 90. Faldo is likely to use a high-compression ball of probably 110 or 120. Mr Smewin said: "A top professional's balls are also chosen individually so that the compression is identical. 'If you buy a dozen balls from the shop the compression is likely to vary,' he said."

Space-age materials give big hitters an extra 40 yards

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT



Woods: high-tech clubs

BOBBY JONES, the legendary American golfer who won the Amateur and Open championships of Britain and the US in 1930, is considered to have played almost the perfect round when he took 66 strokes over the Old Course at Sunningdale in 1926.

Jones's four-under-par round was made up of 33 shots from tee to green and 33 putts. It contained only three and fours, no twos or fives. He failed to hit only one green in the correct number of strokes and did not hole one long putt. What is more, he did it using the technology of the day.

The difference between the clubs

and balls that Jones used in the 1920s and those his successors use 70 years later is apparent when his clubs are compared with those available to his modern day counterpart, Tiger Woods, the best amateur in the world. The 19-year-old Stanford University student was the top amateur in last week's Masters at Augusta, Georgia.

On the Berkshire course, Jones used hickory-shafted woods to drive from the tee and to play the longest strokes from the fairway. The heads of these clubs were made of dried persimmon, probably cut from trees grown in Kentucky. The clubs' shafts varied in quality, strength and torque. They were subject to warping in the rain and stiffening in extreme cold. Jones's putter was hickory-shafted,

too. It had a rusty steel head known as a blade head because of its resemblance to the blade of a knife. Jones called it Calamity Jane.

Woods has the benefit of equipment that uses space-age technology and materials. The "woods" would have metal heads, which are more forgiving than wood. Woods with heads 25 per cent bigger than normal to help to generate clubhead speed, and thus distance, are now commonplace. So are shafts of titanium, which is 40 per cent lighter than steel.

Jones was regarded as a long hitter but would have averaged no more than 270 yards. Woods, a prodigious driver, hit the ball further than everyone last week, averaging nearly 310 yards from the tee. Much of the

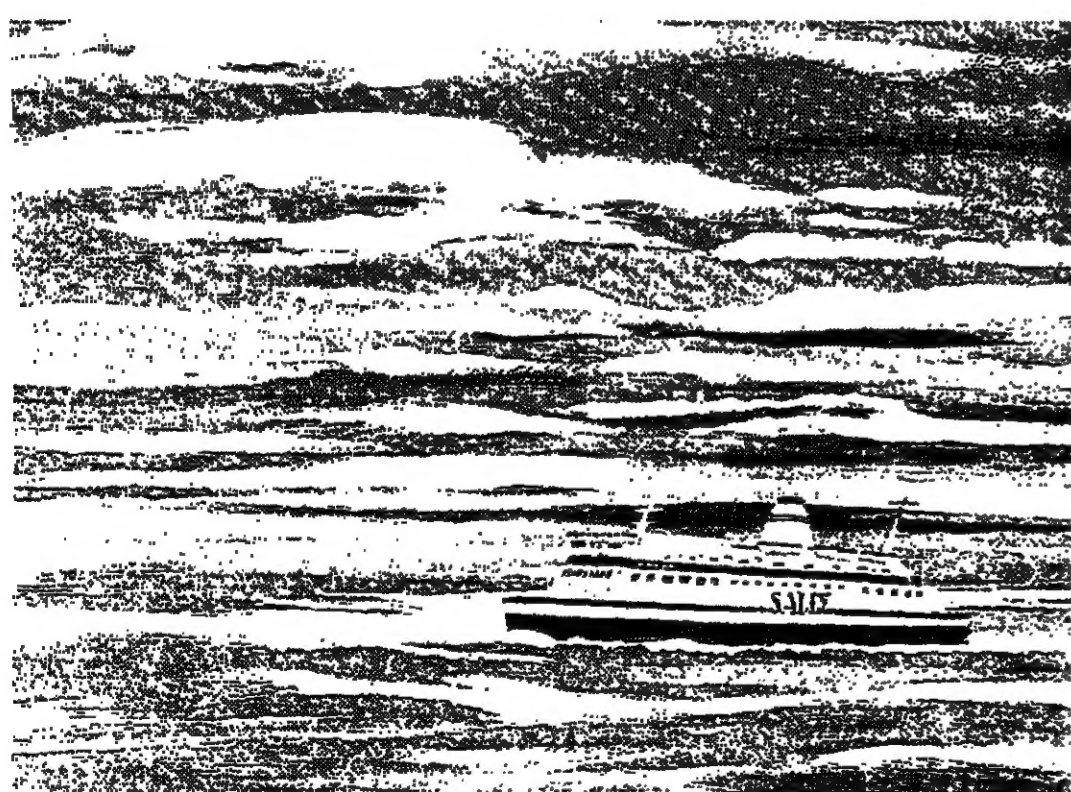
extra distance Woods and others achieve is due to improvements in golf ball manufacture. No longer does it comprise rubber thread wound tightly around a solid rubber core and encased in gutta percha.

Today's ball comprises a rubber sack filled with liquid that is frozen while 22 metres of elastic thread, stretched to ten times its length, is wrapped around it. Then the two halves of the cover are fused and painted. The cover material is balata, which comes from the Brazilian rain forests.

There is a price to pay for these technological advances. Jones's clubs probably cost half a week's wage. Today's space-age monsters can cost hundreds of pounds each.



Jones: hickory shaft



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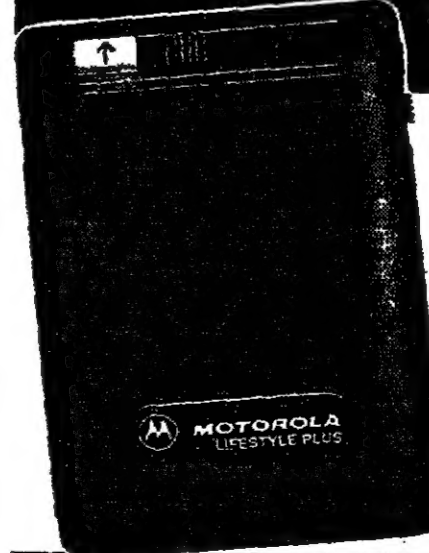
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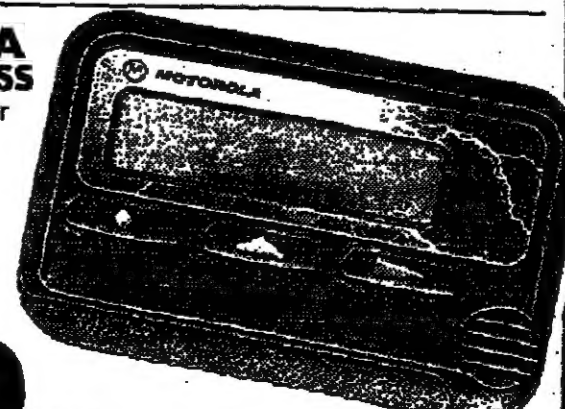
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Jerusalem braced for outbreak of religious delusion

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS RECORD numbers of Jewish and Christian tourists flock to Jerusalem for the joint Passover and Easter weekend, staff at the city's Kfar Shaul psychiatric hospital are braced for new victims of "Jerusalem Syndrome", a delusional state caused by the religious surroundings.

Some sufferers become convinced that they are the saviour or some other biblical figure such as John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary or King David reborn. Others become disoriented and certain they have been given a special message by God or otherwise have opened direct communications with Him.

Since records began 15 years ago, an average of 40 cases a year have been treated. This is expected to grow with the approach of the year 2000, as every millennium is known to encourage an increase in religious sentiment.

"This weekend, there is certain to be a jump in the numbers coming for treatment because the two religious festivals happen to coincide," said Yair Bar-el, chief psychiatrist at the hospital, who has published a study on the phenomenon.

Among recent victims from Britain was a 35-year-old office worker from Manchester who was treated after she stripped naked on the Temple Mount and told police she needed someone to make her pregnant. She was convinced that she needed to have sex because she said she wanted to produce a second Jesus Christ.

Like most victims, she was brought here and after a few days' treatment, involving tranquillising drugs, she was calm enough to be allowed home," Mr Bar-el said.

He divides sufferers into 80 per cent who, like the woman from Manchester, have a history of mental disorder and are often attracted to Jerusalem for that reason, and the rest who arrive perfectly sane and are then afflicted. Most are single and in their 20s or 30s.

Some of the sufferers see Jerusalem as something of a corridor between our planet and heaven where they are suddenly impelled to do something," Mr Bar-el said. "Others are afflicted because they cannot reconcile the modern realities of the holy city with their expectations. The result is to drive them to retreat from their personal reality."

Another sufferer treated recently was a 24-year-old shop assistant from Wales who was found wandering in a near trance on the road to the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. "For the first day, she was in such a state she was not even able to say her name," Mr Bar-el said. "But

later we found she had come to Jerusalem to resolve an 'internal war' in her head between two voices. One was Jesus Christ and it informed her she was the Virgin Mary, and the other was a female voice who told her that she was a whore."

Among more than 500 tourists already treated for the syndrome have been a British teacher, aged 36, who burst into the emergency room of a Jerusalem hospital claiming she was miscarrying the baby Jesus and a busy Canadian who demonstrated his credentials for being "Samson" and nearly escaped from a security ward by smashing through a wall. A "John the Baptist" tried converting some of the Jewish mental patients suffering from more routine disorders.

Mr Bar-el first identified the syndrome when comparing the numbers of visitors requiring psychiatric treatment with the totals in other tourist destinations around the world. "There is something about the city that has this peculiar effect," he said. "For instance, I shall never forget the Danish teacher who became convinced that it was in Jerusalem, and only in Jerusalem that he was able to speak directly with both Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary."

Leading article, page 17



A hooded penitent carries a censer in a Holy Week procession in Saragossa yesterday. Similar Easter processions are being staged throughout Spain

Mandela blames advisers over sacking of wife

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela said yesterday that the South African Government's credibility remained unshaken despite a setback over the reinstatement of his estranged wife Winnie as a deputy minister.

However, Mr Mandela hinted that his advisers were at least partly to blame for the three-week drama.

"I think that I have got very good advisers except in this particular case," Mr Mandela said in his first public comment on the matter since his wife's reinstatement on Wednesday.

Speaking in Nairobi during a stopover on his way home from a visit to four Gulf countries, he said: "The reputations of governments are not affected by issues of this nature."

As his opponents said that he had allowed South Africa to appear like a banana republic, Mr Mandela refused to say if he would sack Mrs Mandela again as predicted by government sources in South Africa. "We will cross that bridge when we reach it," the President said.

The President dismissed his wife as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology on March 27, only to rescind her dismissal as "invalid" after she took legal action. Last night, after returning to South Africa, he went into a huddle with his advisers, anxious as a government official put it, "to deal with the matter expeditiously and without leaving any loopholes".

Mr Mandela said in Nairobi that he had been forced to reappoint his wife because he wanted to uphold South Africa's constitution.

Professor Jakes Gerwel, the head of the President's private office, denied that the office had managed the affair badly. Professor Gerwel said that his decision to appoint and terminate the services of ministers and deputy ministers was a political matter and not an administrative act, and he was therefore not obliged to explain his reasons in public.

Fanus Schoeman, the National Party director general, said yesterday that the incident had undermined the credibility of Mr Mandela's Government. "For a minister to fight her dismissal on a technicality makes a mockery of the democratic system," he said.

"We have created the impression around the world that we are just another banana republic," Martinus van Schalkwyk, a National Party spokesman, said.

Mrs Mandela's reinstatement was welcomed by some members of a populist tendency in the African National Congress. Major-General Bantu Holomisa, the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, called on Mr Mandela not to sack his wife again and urged him to meet her to "get the other side of the story".

Bionic ear for babies unveiled

Melbourne: Australian scientists yesterday launched a bionic ear for babies which they described as the first of its kind in the world.

The device is half the size of an adult implant, which is too big to be used by children under the age of two, and can sit flat on the skull of a six-month-old baby. It was developed by Professor Graeme Clark, in conjunction with Melbourne University and a private company.

"Our recent results show that on average children can understand over 60 per cent of words in a sentence without needing lip-reading help with the aid of a bionic ear," Professor Clark said.

The prototype micro-bionic ear had been tried successfully on adults in Melbourne and it was hoped implants would be carried out on children within a few months. Trials of the device around the world are being planned.



World trials of the tiny bionic ear are planned

Professor Clark said the performance of the bionic ear was better when received at an early age.

"Ideally, we should operate on children as young as six months of age so that they can learn speech and language when their brains are at the crucial stage," he added.

He said the first bionic ear implant clinic in the world was established in Melbourne in 1982. About 10,000 people in 45 countries are believed to have been fitted with the device. (AFP)

Chernobyl to close by 2000

Kiev: President Kuchma of Ukraine had talks with a European Union representative yesterday and agreed to close the Chernobyl nuclear power station before 2000, the Interfax Ukraine news agency reported.

The agency quoted Vladimir Gorbunin, the head of Ukraine's Security Council, as saying that Mr Kuchma had fixed the date in talks with Michel Barnier, the French Environment Minister. A gas-fired power station is to be built to make up for the shortfall in energy. (Reuters)

Walesa son to sail

Warsaw: Przemyslaw Walesa, 21, son of the Polish President Lech Walesa, was jailed for two years in Gdansk for causing a car accident, drunk-driving, trying to hit a police officer and other offences, the PAP news agency reported. Judge Marek Wojtala refused to suspend the sentence despite requests from both prosecution and defence lawyers, the agency said. The sentence, stemming from an incident in November 1993, is open to appeal. (Reuters)

Envoy recalled in Kurds protest

Ankara: Turkey is to recall its ambassador to The Netherlands immediately for consultations after a Kurdish parliament in exile was set up in The Hague. A Turkish spokesman said the Government was "saddened" that the Netherlands, a Nato ally, had allowed the parliament, accusing it of "an open breach of its international responsibilities concerning the fight against terrorism". (Reuters)

Vienna gets new archbishop

Vienna: The Vatican sought yesterday to defuse a row among Austria's Roman Catholics by appointing a successor to Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer as Archbishop of Vienna. The cardinal is alleged to have sexually molested a former pupil. The successor is Vienna's suffragan bishop, Christoph Schoenborn, aged 50. (Reuters)

Baghdad bar on pilgrims

Baghdad: Iraq is for the first time not allowing any of its Muslims to go on pilgrimage to Mecca this year because their foreign currency needs could damage the Iraqi dinar, the Minister of Religious Affairs, Abdul-Muneim Ahmed Saleh, said, blaming UN trade sanctions. (Reuters)

Lakes, Mountains, Gardens & Villas of Lake Como & the Opera Festival of Verona

What could be more delightful than to spend four relaxing days beside Lake Como, with its beautiful villas and gardens, followed by four days in the medieval city of Verona for the 73rd Verona Opera Festival with exploration of the area culminating with a visit to Venice.

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart in the morning with British Airways from Heathrow to Milan and transfer to the hotel on Lake Como. In the evening there will be a formal introduction to the week ahead.

Day 2 Excursion by private launch to visit the gardens of Villa Monastero in Varenna continuing to Bellagio to visit the gardens of Villa Melzi d'Eril.

Day 3 Full day at leisure to relax or explore the area independently. Dinner in the hotel.

Day 4 Excursion by private launch to Villa Carlotta at Cadenabbia to view the interiors and gardens. The setting is superb, the views just perfect and the gardens diverse and fascinating. Free time in Lenno for lunch. Afterwards we make a private visit to the gardens of the Villa Balbianello, one of the loveliest of the west lake shore gardens of Lake Como. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 5 Transfer from Menaggio to Verona, stopping en route in the old city of Bergamo. Escorted by the official guide, we will tour the city following which we will stop for lunch at Trattoria del Teatro. Arrive in the late afternoon into Verona and check into the hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel, the evening is at leisure.

Day 6 After breakfast we will take a guided tour of Verona, a fascinating and lively city. Its medieval heart of narrow cobbled streets seems to have changed scarcely since the time of its lovers Romeo and Juliet. The busy Piazza delle Erbe throngs with market crowds by day and elegant strollers by night. In contrast there are quiet courtyards and squares framed by pink-stoned buildings and gracious churches.

In the afternoon we will visit the medieval town of Mantua. We will make a visit to the Palazzo Ducale. This late-15th century home of the Gonzaga family resembles more a fortress than a palace. Return to the hotel for an early dinner before departing for the Arena for our first opera performance.

Day 7 Free day in Verona. Dinner at the hotel prior to our departure to the Arena for our second opera performance.

Day 8 Following breakfast, we will depart for Venice. Our private boat will depart from Piazzale Tronchetto for St. Mark Square, following which there will be a guided tour, including a visit to the Doges' Palace. There will be some free time for lunch and independent sightseeing in Venice before returning in the late afternoon to our hotel. Dinner will be served in the hotel prior to our departure to the Arena for our final Opera performance.

Day 9 Depart from Verona by road to Venice for our early afternoon flight with British Airways to London Heathrow.

Departure Dates & Prices

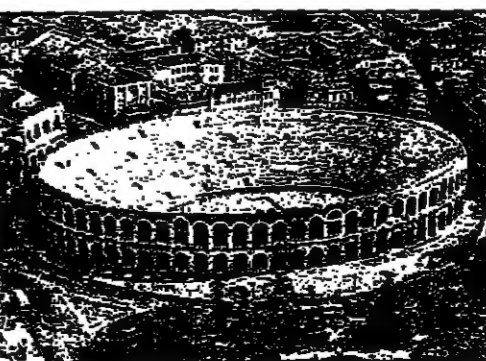
per person in a twin

July 9	£1019.00
July 13*	£995.00
July 16	£1094.00



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July 20*	£1070.00
July 23, 27*	£995.00
August 4, 7*	£995.00
August 11	£1070.00
August 14*, 21*	£995.00
August 25, 28*	£995.00
Single supplement	£220.00

* these departures will operate in the reverse direction.
+ this departure will include tickets for only two opera performances at the Arena.

Price includes: air travel, transfers, 4 nights in Menaggio (Grand Hotel) or Trezzano Palace - both 4 stars, 4 nights in Verona (Catalina or Concorde - both 4 stars), welcome cocktail, half board throughout, lunch in Bergamo, services of tour manager and local guides, excursion programme as indicated, tickets and transfers for 3 opera performances. Not included: travel insurance, overseas departure taxes, tips. All prices are subject to change.

Supplements

per person per performance
Opera tickets included in the price are Seconda Gradinata (un-numbered seats). Ticket upgrade is as follows:
Numbered seats £60.00
Second stalls £84.00
First stalls £107.00

The Arena and the Performances

The Arena in Verona is the third largest amphitheatre in existence, probably the best preserved and was initially used in the 1st century for much the same purposes as all other Roman amphitheatres, for gladiatorial contests, hunts and games. In the Middle Ages it was used for jousts, tournaments and executions. During the Renaissance it was the scene for tournaments and bull baiting and it was in the 17th and 18th centuries that theatrical spectacles were improvised for the first time. However, it was not until 1913 that the Arena was to become the largest lyric stage in the world with the world's greatest sets and the largest orchestra. The Arena's interior is still in an excellent state of preservation and has become the home of the internationally famous summer opera festivals. The Arena can seat 25,000 spectators and the acoustics are so perfect that even those in the last rows can hear clearly.

Performances for each of our departures are as follows:

July 9, 13	Rigoletto/Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci/Aida
July 16, 20	Rigoletto/Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci/Carmen
July 23, 27	Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci/Aida/Turandot
August 4, 7	Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci/Aida/Carmen
August 11, 14	Rigoletto/Aida/Carmen

How to Book

For reservations please telephone Voyages Jules Verne on 0171-723 5066.

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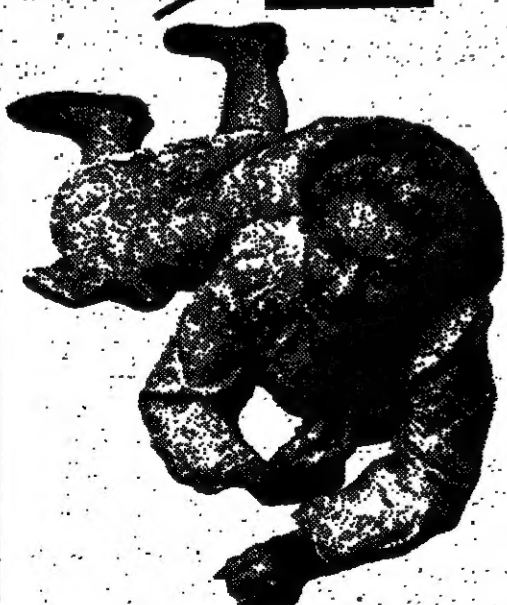
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Irian Jaya tribes retreat in face of mining onslaught

FROM DAVID WATTS IN TIMIKA, IRIAN JAYA, INDONESIA

"THEY'VE just put in the first white road markings, pretty soon there'll be traffic lights." The Southern drawl booms inconspicuously over this frontier town nestled in the Indonesian rain forest.

Like something out of turn-of-the-century America, Timika is essentially the result of the exploitation of a billion tonnes of copper and gold ore. This part of Indonesia's "wild east" has been turned into an extra-territorial stretch of the United States.

The regret in the voice of Roger Austin, vice-president for public relations of the mining conglomerate, Freeport Indonesia, is over the passing of the frontier spirit. But this is nothing compared to the price being paid by the peoples of Irian — whose males still wear penis gourds



and carry bows and arrows — at Freeport's intrusion into sacred lands and a culture which is thousands of years old. That price is being highlighted by reports of violence against the Dani and Amungme people in recent months which have resulted in the deaths or disappearances of 37 tribal people, according to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

Last Christmas Day, three people were reported killed when supporters of a free Papua raised their flag.

PT Freeport has denied allegations that its own security men have been involved in any incidents. Now the Australian Government is to investigate alleged killings by the Indonesian armed forces and indications that more indigenous people will be displaced as the firm expands.

Indonesia took over the territory in the so-called "Act of Free Choice" which was supposed to be a United Nations-organised plebiscite. In the event, Irian joined Indonesia after 1,000 representatives, hand-picked by Jakarta, voted to join the republic in 1969.

PT Freeport Indonesia — part-owned by RTZ of Britain — has gouged away the top of one mountain to recover the precious ore and is now set to expand exploration for deposits over a further 11 million acres of central Irian Jaya, much of which is sacred to people who have inhabited the island for 40,000 years. The economic logic is compelling, with production costs at about 39 cents (24p) per pound of copper and a world price at about \$1.30. Timika and the

Freeport company town, Tembagapura, lie in the shadow of the mine 7,000 feet up in the mountains that form the backbone of Irian. It is arguably the most dramatic civil engineering project in the world. The access road alone — which had to be cut through jungle along perilous ridges — was described by the American construction corporation Bechtel as the most difficult project they had undertaken. The mine itself is straight out of a James Bond fantasy

with huge mechanical shovels taking 75-tonne bites out of the rock face and loading the ore into 200-ton, 2,500-horsepower trucks before the copper and gold-bearing ore is crushed and suspended in a slurry to be pumped more than 70 miles to the coast for loading on to freighters bound for markets in Europe, Asia and North America.

Since the arrival of PT Freeport as the first main foreign investor in Indonesia after President Suharto took

power in 1967 the firm's presence has been opposed by many local tribespeople. But the firm has had the strong support of the Indonesian military: air attacks were launched against early attempts to oppose the mining operations.

There has been criticism, too, of the environmental damage caused by the firm. James "Jim-Bob" Moffatt, chairman and chief operating officer of the parent firm, Freeport McKean of Louisi-

ana, is said to have dismissed such criticism with the comment that any pollution the firm caused was "equivalent to me peeing in the Arafura Sea". But he now recognises that PT Freeport needs a clean bill of environmental and social health.

Though Freeport has displaced the Irianese from their mountain homes, whence they fled in ancient times to escape the threat of lowland malaria, the company has moved to organise many of the dis-

placed in a small coastal settlement called Kwamki Lama. Here they have a chance of learn trades and some English from the wives of company executives. The firm, too, encourages the development of local cultural skills such as wood carving. But such measures can only be a small palliative for the reality that very few Irianese are actually employed in the relatively highly-paid mining work — only 13 per cent of the workforce is Irianese.



A 200-tonne ore truck rumbles across a mountain road at 7,000ft in Irian Jaya, where mining is transforming primeval jungle

Suharto attacks critics

Jakarta: President Suharto of Indonesia, returning from a visit to Germany, threatened yesterday to take stern action against Indonesians who participated in protests against him during his trip.

"These people are insane and irrational," he told reporters. "Any disagreement

among ourselves should be settled between ourselves."

He also denounced Amnesty International, the human rights group, saying it organized the protests in Germany by bringing together "frustrated people" who back separatist movements in Indonesia, notably East Timor. (AP)

Japanese trawl seas and roads for cultists

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TOKYO

MORE THAN 20,000 police were involved in manning and setting up a thousand road-blocks throughout Japan yesterday in the hunt for the missing leaders of the religious cult suspected in Tokyo's nerve gas attack.

Officers checked identification cards of passengers and searched vehicles. The coast guard, meanwhile, checked ships along Japan's western coast because of suspicions that Shoko Asahara, the cult's leader, may have fled by boat. But a spokesman for the sect, Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth), said Asahara was still in Japan.

One senior member, Kiyohide Nakada, was arrested as he left a Tokyo TV studio. News reports identified him as a former gangster and a current leader of the cult's "commando corps," which recaptures escaped members.

Police said that they had discovered members of the group reloading replica guns into functioning weapons. Handguns are banned in Japan, but model guns are legal.

Baby boy installed as living buddha

FROM REUTERS IN PEKING

THE two-year-old son of a herdsman has ascended the throne of the Tibetan Buddhist Ta'er temple in western China as the 14th reincarnation of its living buddha, officials said yesterday.

Losang Baden Qoigya Wangxiu was recently identified as a buddha incarnate five years after the death of the 13th Jiayang Buddha, who lived in the sprawling 16th century temple and monastery complex in western Qinghai province, a temple official said by telephone. "We found the reincarnation after looking in the direction given by the 13th Jiayang Buddha before he died," the official said.

Officials registered the names of 200 babies born over an eight-month period in the area indicated by the 13th reincarnation, writing each name on a slip of paper and then burying the slip in a ball of barley flour dough, he said. The balls were placed on the altar of a local shrine and an elimination process identified the baby son of a herdsman.

China evades risky funeral for veteran

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN A display of political unease, Peking announced yesterday that there would be no state funeral for Chen Yun, the most senior member of the Communist Party, who died on Monday aged 90.

Chen Jian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the decision was taken in accordance with the former Prime Minister's wishes and "relevant regulations."

All Chinese leaders ask that their funerals be kept simple, and in virtually every instance this is ignored. However, such ceremonies tend to result in crises.

Soon after Chou En-lai died in 1976, followed by grand ceremonies, he was attacked in a newspaper associated with the Gang of Four. Ten days later, on April 4, a huge crowd gathered in Tiananmen Square, with speakers hailing the late Prime Minister, praising his exiled disciple, Deng Xiaoping, and criticising the Gang. The demonstration was put down brutally, but it was a mark of the return of Mr Deng that it was later declared to have been "democratic."

Mao Tse-tung's death in December 1976 was followed almost at once by the arrest of the Gang and the start of the shift away from Maoism.

The third great state funeral was in April 1989, for Hu Yaobang, who had been forced to resign as party General Secretary two years before. This sparked the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations



Chen: fell out with Mao and Deng Xiaoping

when discontented students recalled that one of the reasons Hu had been disgraced was his sympathy for student demonstrations in 1986.

Chen Yun deserved a state funeral as much as anyone in China. A member of the party Central Committee and Politburo decades before Mr Deng, he had been a revolutionary leader for at least 60 years.

However, Chen had disagreed first with Mao, who set him aside for questioning the strong central control of the economy, and later with Mr Deng whom he accused of pushing forward reforms at a dangerous speed.

Chen's official obituary is a masterpiece of general praise while slighting his basic contribution to the economy — increasing deregulation under central supervision, generally credited to Mr Deng.

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Variations to Easter Opening Hours: Good Friday Jassy closed, Isle of Man 2pm-5.30pm; Easter Sunday Isle of Man 2pm-5.30pm; Bank Holiday Monday 12pm-4pm; Northern Ireland stores Open Mon-Sat 7.30am and Easter Sunday 9am-4pm. (Ballymena closed Easter Sunday).
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Powell keeps US guessing over presidential race

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

GENERAL COLIN POWELL is prepared to consider running for President next year only if the American public wants him.

He has told friends and advisers that if they demonstrate to him that he has genuine grassroots support he will give the idea far more careful consideration than he is doing at the moment.

For the time being, though, he wants to stay away from the gruelling scrutiny and travel of a campaign, for which he has no appetite, while he finishes the final stages of his autobiography. Due out in America and Britain in the autumn, the book will make him rich: the advance is \$6 million (£3.75 million).

General Powell's wait-and-see attitude emerged yesterday as those close to him tried to staunch renewed speculation about a White House bid, saying nothing was planned for now. The general wants to remain undecided, if for no other reason than that he has promised to undertake an extensive tour to promote his book. He does not want radio and television stations turning him down for fear of having to grant equal time to other candidates under the broad-

casting industry's fairness doctrine. General Powell himself is to blame for the spate of media attention. Speaking at a college in Massachusetts last week, he implied that he was considering running for President as an independent. He also said he was keeping his options open and only after he finished work on the memoirs would he "see where I go from there".

Bill Stullen, a Powell aide, said it was reading too much into the remarks to suggest, as some news reports had, that the general would announce a decision about running for President in September. As for being an independent, that could have been a jocular remark to deflect questions about whether he is a Republican or Democrat. Still, some Powell associates have looked into the mechanics of a third-party campaign.

In short, General Powell, 58, an articulate and charismatic figure who was born in Harlem of Jamaican immigrants and rose to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is engaged in a long-running political issue. A parallel can be drawn with Dwight Eisenhower who, at this stage prior to the 1952 campaign, was serving in Paris as Supreme

Allied Commander in Europe and waiting to be convinced by a "Draft Ike" movement that he should seek the Republican nomination.

Eisenhower's biographer, Stephen Ambrose, is a leading figure in Citizens for Colin Powell, a loose coalition of supporters that already extends to 35 of the 50 states. They are strikingly similar to the Citizens for Eisenhower clubs that sprang up spontaneously in 1951 to show Ike that his grassroots appeal ran deep.

The latest polls show General Powell's public approval rating at over 60 per cent. In the field of Republican candidates, he runs a strong second behind the front runner, Senator Robert Dole. In a hypothetical three-way match-up, he was third with 23 per cent as an independent behind President Clinton, 34 per cent, and Mr Dole, 32 per cent.

Meanwhile, Bob Dornan, a Californian congressman, joined the Republican presidential race yesterday. He urged other runners to concentrate on social issues because "moral decay is rotting the heart and soul of our country". He is the seventh declared Republican candidate.



The Dionne quintuplets in 1943 on their way to launch five identical Second World War Liberty ships

'Exploited' quins seek damages

North Bay, Ontario: Three of the world's first surviving quintuplets, the Dionne sisters, born on May 28, 1934, are seeking \$10 million (£4.5 million) in compensation from the Ontario Government for exploitation as children.

Bertrand Dionne, son of Cecile Dionne and agent for her and her sisters Annette and Yvonne, said they might pursue a legal settlement if the Government did not comply by the end of May. The other two sisters, Emilie and Marie, died some time ago.

The sisters' father signed a contract 48 hours after their birth to display them at the Chicago World's Fair. Ontario intervened and set up a board of guardians and a \$1 million trust fund, almost completely excluding the parents from decisions on how to bring them up. (A7)

Colombia declares war on Cali cocaine cartel

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AFTER being accused by American officials of failing to mount a serious effort in the war on drugs, Colombia has launched an offensive in Cali, the nation's third largest city and home to the world's most powerful cocaine cartel.

However, recent drug raids, while netting copious amounts of drug trafficking paraphernalia, have not led to the arrest of cartel leaders who remain one step ahead of their

pursuers. The mixed success of the joint police and army operations have added to suspicions that senior levels of the Colombian Government and security forces have long been infiltrated by the cartels through bribery and intimidation.

Last week police and soldiers raided two large cartel warehouses in Cali and confiscated tons of chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine, as well as sophisticated electronic equipment used to monitor police activity. But the warehouses were abandoned and no arrests were made. Miguel Munoz,

Cali's chief prosecutor, said that the circle is closing on the cartel leaders. "We are on the brink of stampeding over the cartel leaders," he said. Police commanders of the 500-man Search Squad have privately expressed their suspicion that the squad has been infiltrated by cartel spies. They add that government officials in Bogotá, 200 miles northeast of Cali, must also be involved.

One of the warehouses contained 3,000 tons of sodium carbonate, enough to process about 150 tons of cocaine. The chemicals, worth £17.5

million, were shipped from Poland through the Colombian port of Buenaventura with false documents. Local police were tipped off by American anti-drug agents who monitored the shipment.

Rejecting accusations of drug corruption at high levels, the Government last week offered \$1.25 million for information leading to arrest of the Cali cartel's two top leaders, brothers Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela, and \$625,000 for their partners, José Santacruz Londoño and Francisco Herrera.

Grudges open split in Simpson jury

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE threat of a mistrial in the O. J. Simpson murder case receded yesterday when a dismissed juror's description of a jury divided along racial lines turned out to be based mainly on video viewing preferences.

Jeannette Harris nearly stalled the lumbering trial last week by suggesting that her fellow jurors had formed cliques for and against Mr Simpson, violating strict court orders.

Summoned to explain herself in a closed hearing late on Wednesday, however, Mrs Harris is reported to have told Judge Lance Ito that the cliques formed because whites and blacks on the jury usually wanted to watch different films on television. Sheriff's deputies guarding the sequestered jurors therefore provided a second room for watching films, Mrs Harris was reported as saying.

Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's defence attorney, urged the judge to take Mrs Harris's

allegations seriously nevertheless. She has also alleged that one white juror kicked her and deliberately trod on the foot of another black juror, and accused sheriff's deputies of allowing white jurors more browsing time than blacks on shopping expeditions.

Judge Ito's first reaction to the allegations was that they were "so trivial as to be unbelievable", but an attorney for Mrs Harris emphasised outside court that a number of admittedly minor grudges between them opened up a rift in the jury.

Whatever impact the racial issues may have had on the jury, they have split the public. More than half of non-whites polled for a recent Newsweek survey said that, on the evidence presented so far they would acquit Mr Simpson of the murders of his former wife, Nicole Brown-Simpson, and Ronald Goldman. Only a quarter of the whites polled said that they would acquit him.

Bumbling spy saves Cold War thriller

BY GILES WHITTILL

LANGUISHING in a Pennsylvania jail, the most notorious turncoat in recent American history has come to the rescue of filmmakers who feared the death of the Cold War thriller.

Aldrich Ames, the Soviet mole in the CIA whose treachery cost the lives of at least ten American agents, had been the object of enough stake-outs and bugging devices for the most improbable screenplay by the time the FBI arrested him last February. He now finds himself the subject of three film projects, two of them requiring his personal participation.

MGM, the Hollywood studio, this week bought up the film rights to *The Last Spy* by Pete Kierley, one of a brace of books rushed out on Ames in the past year. Fox 2000, a division of 20th Century Fox, has meanwhile paid a six-figure sum for *Betrayal: The Story of Aldrich Ames*, by a trio of reporters for *The New York Times*.

Ames agreed last autumn to collaborate on a film of his life being made by Ted Danson, the actor and producer. Prison regulations permitting, the fallen spy will also be directly involved in the MGM project, according to published reports.

Though compelling, the Ames saga is hardly the stuff of James Bond glitz. Its anti-hero was by most accounts a bumbling drunkard who stored state secrets on his home computer and left notes about clandestine meetings in his dustbin.



Burl Ives, 85, the actor and singer, was feared near death last night after falling into a coma at his home in America.

Judge has no defence

Ottawa: A judge here had to declare a mistrial after he found a man guilty before his lawyer presented a word in his defence (Richard Cleroux writes). The trial had lasted for more than 15 months.

Judge Russell Merredew asked Robert Wakefield, the defence lawyer, when he wished to have his client sentenced that day or later? Mr Wakefield replied: "I take that as a finding of guilty." The lawyer added that he did not recall ever presenting a defence, but Judge Merredew countered by saying he thought he had heard all the evidence. He then declared a mistrial.

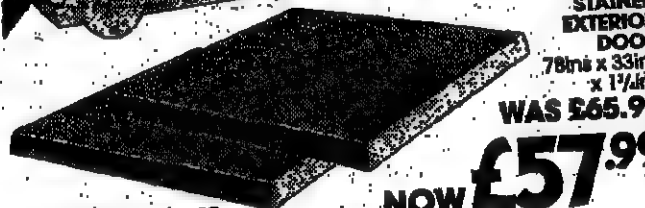
The client, Abdul Khidayer, 36, of Ottawa, had been charged with assault causing bodily harm to his wife. The case had been adjourned several times while psychiatrists determined whether Khidayer was mentally fit to stand trial.

"Everybody makes mistakes," said Mr Wakefield.

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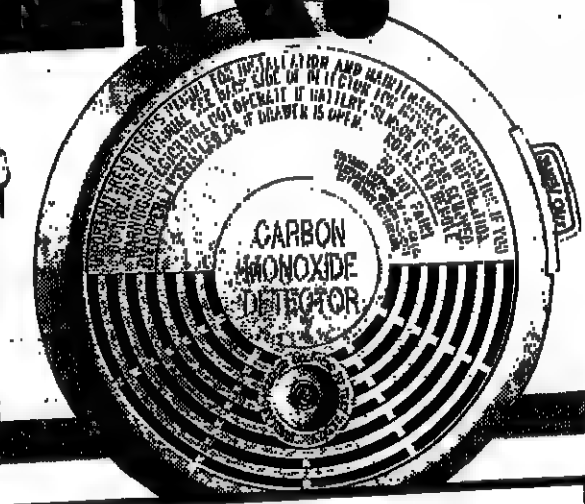
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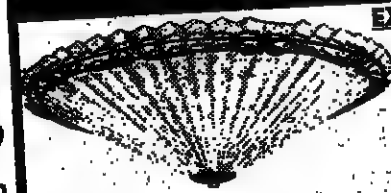


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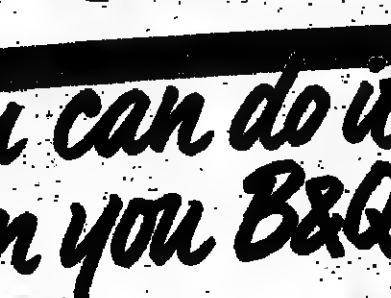
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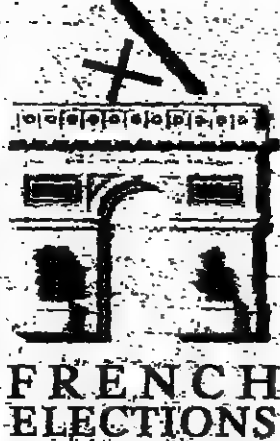
Fiery Delors fails to rouse lacklustre Jospin support

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN TOULOUSE

THE wine was flowing, the evening warm and the Socialist militants of Toulouse were family, but Jacques Delors still had to rebuke them over Europe. He had, he said, just spent ten years as boss of the European Commission, and could therefore say that nobody had done more for union than President Mitterrand.

He paused for cheers, but a silence fell on the hall of 3,000 diners, gathered to support Lionel Jospin, the Socialist presidential candidate. "You'll have to show more enthusiasm about Europe," M Delors chided them. "If you don't, your children and grandchildren will find themselves marginalised in the world."

Nervous applause followed. The moment spoke both for the Euro-doubts that afflict France these days and for the chief blot on the Socialist's hopes of winning the presidency next month: disillusion with the legacy of M. Mitterrand, the party's modern saviour



and ruler for the past 14 years. M. Delors' visit to Toulouse to help M. Jospin overcame both his doubts as polls showed the Socialist likely to eclipse Nicolas Sarkozy, the Gaullist challenger, in the April 23 vote and ensure him M. Jospin's place along with Jacques Chirac in the May 7 run-off.

M. Jospin, 57, an uninspiring performer, says the tide has turned and he can beat the

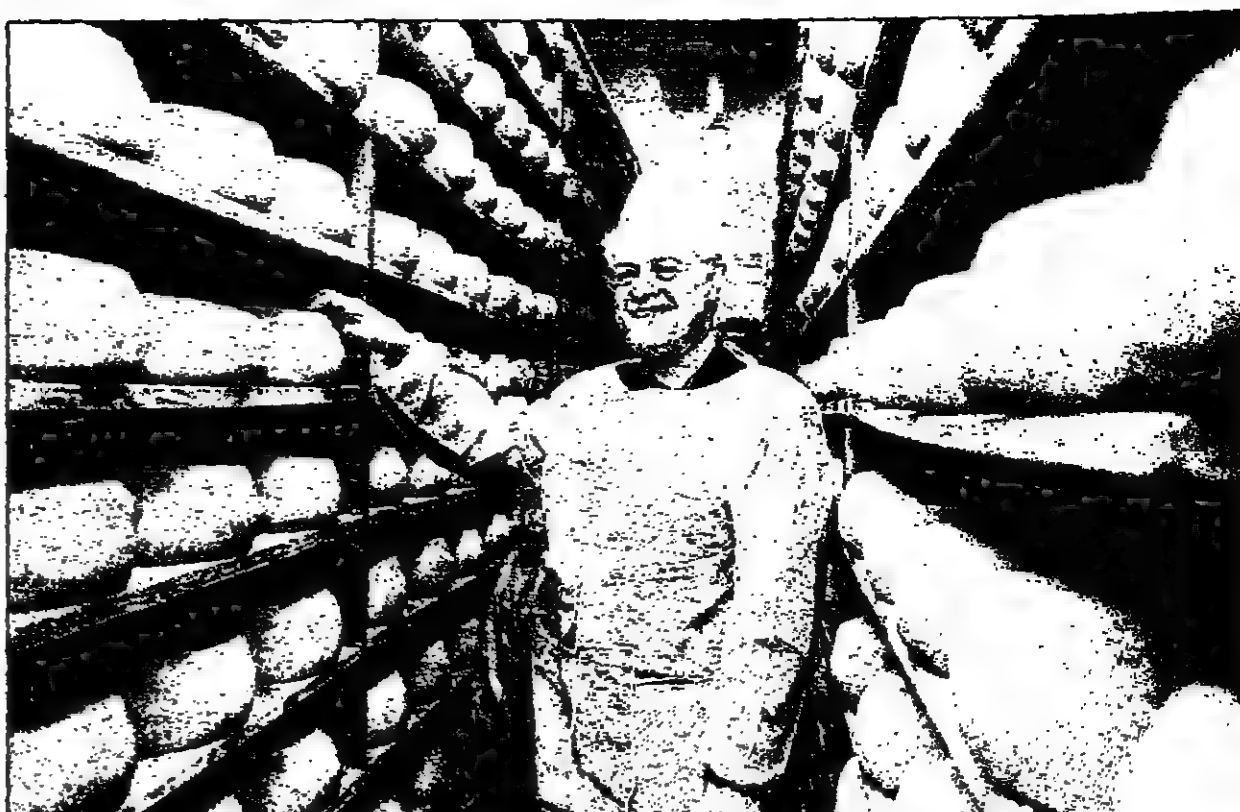
duelling Gaullists whom he calls "Dupont and Dupond". The names are those of the bumbling twin detectives of the Tintin cartoon books. However, as they toured the Haute Garonne department, where M. Jospin lost his parliamentary seat in 1993, the candidate's small travelling team seem unconvinced of their imminent victory.

Six months after declining to run for election, M. Delors remains France's most popular politician and a poll this week showed him top of a list of figures the public would most like to see serving in the next Government, even if it is headed by M. Chirac. Marine Aubry, M. Delors's daughter, came second. He has been laid up with sciatica and made only a couple of lukewarm outings in favour of M. Jospin, so his unequivocal endorsement was pure oxygen for the party official whose daunting task is to convince France that it needs another seven years of Socialist presidency.

"The Left is back," M. Delors proclaimed. "France has never

needed it so much... Lionel is the ideal candidate. Thanks to him we return to our roots... He combines fidelity with a critical spirit. Perhaps the party would be in better health if it had accepted confrontation and analysis instead of quarrelling." The line was lost on no-one. The worst foes of M. Jospin, 57, the one-time spiritual son of M. Mitterrand, are Henri Emmanuelli, the party leader and other rival "elephants" of the ever-feuding party.

The only trouble with the fighting speech of M. Delors was the contrast with the candidate. At his fiery best, M. Delors tore into the right-wing candidates, mocking "Noble Doudou," the now-familiar name of M. Balladur and ridiculing "Jacques". M. Jospin, a university lecturer with an air of long-suffering patience, opened with the nostalgia-laden greeting "Comrades" and he side-stepped the thorny Europe question by saying: "I would not dare to discuss it in front of Jacques Delors." He also neglected to



Lionel Jospin, running second in opinion polls, smiles amid the big cheeses at a factory in southwest France

discuss the troubled topic of the Mitterrand years, sticking to his vision for a left-wing "citizen presidency".

Meeting unions at Aerospatiale, the giant plane-makers, M. Jospin denounced the

Americans for using the cheap dollar to undercut the European Airbus and attacked plans to privatise aircraft-building and telecommunications. Fears of open competition in such state mo-

nopolies are driving a wave of strikes in the public sector. "I'm against the deregulation being imposed by Brussels," M. Jospin told *The Times* as he sat in a cafe. Surely he differed with M. Delors on this? "No,"

he replied. "Jacques Delors was acting as President of all the commission. He had to take a consensus position. If he had been acting for France alone, things would have been different."

Germans' mood vacillates over tone for VE-Day

FROM ROGER BOTES IN BERLIN

THE German Government is determined that the murder of millions of Jews should not be forgotten in the commemoration to mark the end of the Second World War. However, controversy is upsetting the quiet dignity sought by Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

Herr Kohl is to visit the New Jewish Synagogue in Berlin on May 8 before John Major, President Mitterrand, of France and Al Gore, the American Vice-President, attend a memorial service. However, some Jews have asked why the Chancellor will not be at the Synagogue with the other Western leaders. That would be a public admission of German responsibility for the Holocaust, and would bring the Jews more completely into a day that is present.

The Hitlers who fought the Nazis

Moscow. Two Soviet Hitlers fought in the Red Army against Nazi Germany, but neither survived more than three months, according to recently discovered Russian Defence Ministry archive documents (Michael Bunyon writes).

Benson Hitler, a Soviet citizen but an ethnic German, was a private of the 182nd Rifle Regiment and was reported missing in action on October 7, 1944, three months after his German namesake launched Operation Barbarossa, the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union.

The other was V.I. Hitler who, although he shared his initials with Lenin, was also an ethnic German and a pure Aryan who served as a private in the 47th Liaison Regiment. He was reported missing on the very next day, October 8, 1944.

commutes between triumphalism and self-doubt. Germans are undecided as to whether May 8 was a day of liberation or of humiliating defeat for them.

The biggest embarrassment is the plan for a gigantic memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe just south of the Brandenburg Gate close to the site of Hitler's bunker.

More than 500 architects responded to the competition to build the biggest memorial of its kind in Europe. The jury has settled on a choice of two designs: One, by a Berlin team, proposes a huge inclined concrete tablet the size of a small sports field. On it the names of 4.5 million murdered Jews would be engraved. The second design, by a team led by Cologne architect Simon Ungers, is for a hollow steel and iron square, 93 yards by 87, with the names of concentration camps cut into the walls.

Feasibility studies are to determine which of the two will be built. Half the money — 16 million marks (£7.1 million) for the Berlin design — is to be put up by Berlin and the Government, but the rest has to come from public donations, for which there seems to be little enthusiasm.

Money is only part of the problem. Reinhard Kling, an historian, says that the idea of a huge monument "reflects a fallacious 19th century pattern of thought." Instead, smaller monuments should be put up where Jews were rounded up, put on trains or murdered.

Rafael Seligmann, the Jewish commentator, complains: "Enough of this butterfly collector mentality that depicts Jews solely as victims and which has the effect of squeezing the life out of real living Jewry." Right-wing German Christian Democrats, including the influential youth organisation in Berlin, claim that the country already has too many Holocaust memorials.



Brusberg, left, and Westphal guilty of arson

Synagogue bombers jailed in Germany

Schleswig. A court sentenced four men to jail yesterday for firebombing a synagogue a year ago in Germany's first such attack since the Nazi era.

The attack in the northern town of Lubeck drew worldwide attention and brought thousands of Germans on to the streets to protest against a wave of far-right violence.

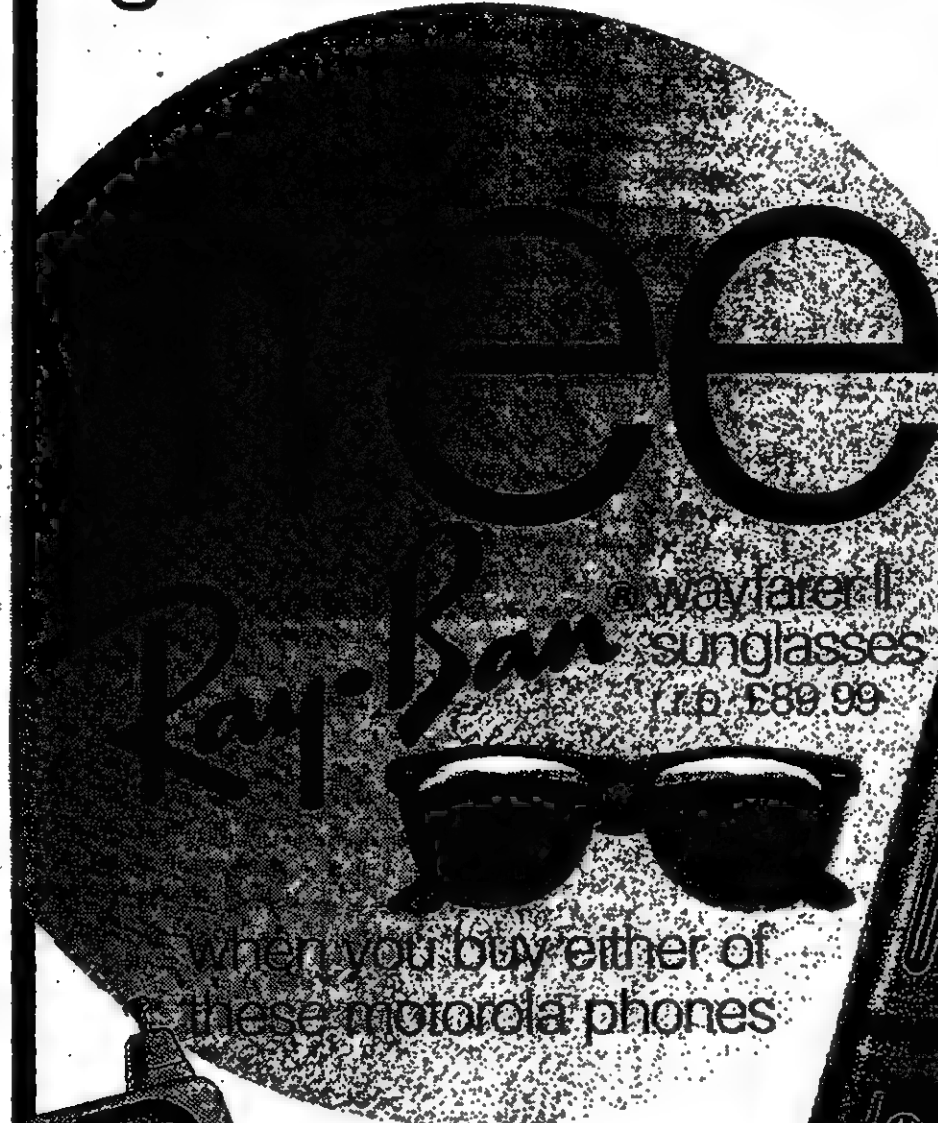
The court in Schleswig found three of the men guilty of arson for the attack on March 25, 1994, and a fourth guilty of complicity. The prosecutors failed to prove that the men knew the building was a

synagogue or that there were five people sleeping inside, so the court rejected a demand for convictions for attempted murder.

Judge Hermann Ehrlich accepted confessions made by Stephan Westphal, 25, and Nico Trapitz, both 20. Westphal was sentenced to four and a half years in prison. Trapitz and Holland-Moritz received juvenile sentences of three years and nine months. Dirk Brusberg, 22, was given two and a half years for complicity. (Reuters)

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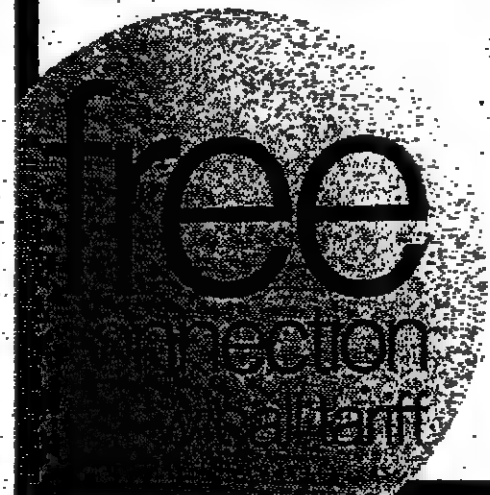
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The thrice-married Guinness heiress with a fascination for a dying duchess locked away in a Paris mansion

'In Ulster we were horrified by the mix of monarchy and sex'

It is tempting to write about Lady Caroline Blackwood in the Gothic prose she herself uses in *The Last of the Duchess*, her book about the formidable Maitre Suzanne Blum, who guarded the Duchess of Windsor in her last decade with such obsessive and menacing ferocity.

As I sit in the dim gloom of the cocktail bar of the Carlyle Hotel in New York, I wonder what Lady Caroline will be like. I know she has had a fascinating, *haute*

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



bohemie life: married thrice, to a painter (Lucian Freud), a musician (Israel Kirshenblatt) and a poet (Robert Lowell). She has been a great beauty: Freud's 1952 portrait *Girl in Bed* shows her with long, elegant fingers, gazing pensively. Now 63, in photographs she still has huge, avid, black-ringed blue eyes which often wear an anxious, even frightened, gaze. Her voice on the telephone is smoky, throaty, grand, and like the Miford girls, a voice from the past.

While the pianist tinkles away, I have time to read one of Blackwood's short stories. It begins: "The painter's widow sat facing the journalist in the bar of a hotel. The bones of her elbows were so sharp they looked like weapons."

The waiter brings me a note. "Traffic horrendous! I may be as much as two hours late!" Lady Caroline is driving in from Sag Harbour, Long Island, which has been hit by a sudden storm. I wait in the Carlyle Hotel for two more hours, in vain.

So we did not meet until this week, in London, when her publisher David Macmillan gave her a splendid dinner, attended by Lady Caroline's friends including Hugo Vickers — "who now lives in a house with a moat," she says, amused — the uproarious George Melly and his wife Diana, and the writer Francis Wyndham, who originally sent Lady Caroline and

Lord Snowdon to Paris in 1980 for *The Sunday Times Magazine*, on a quest to find out what had really become of the duchess locked away in the Bois de Boulogne, apparently being fed through tubes and shrunken like a prune.

At the head of the table, Lady Caroline's eyes sparkle and glitter like her silver shoes. She regales us with a tale of having been up to Birmingham to do *Pebble Mill*, her second television appearance. "It was like being prepared for the electric chair,"

Her book is definitely this year's collector's item: rather in the way that *Major Major*, by the Prime Minister's brother, Terry, was last year's. Reviews have been so mixed that even her reviews were reviewed: how could a book at once be rivetingly awful and so bizarrely absorbing? It is variously wickedly enter-

taining, wilfully malicious, a sustained saga of spite and venom ("Her thanklessly short book will be enjoyed by people who like to linger at the scene of a nasty accident," said one), a black farce, a fantastic fictional fairytale.

The first half is a magazine interview melodramatically spun out, accounts of three sessions with Maitre Blum in her morgue-like Parisian apartment. Maitre Blum's face had "the cast of an oriental warrior. The cruel set of her mouth gives a ferocity to her appearance."

Her eyes "had been sewn into slits with a Chinese slant" which gave them "an unblinking, snake-like malevolence." "Don't smoke," were her first words to Lady Caroline. She said that if she did not write a nice article, "I will kill you," and Lady Caroline believed she meant it.

In the second half of the book, Lady Caroline goes to visit the vaguely dotty old ladies who still remember the duchess. These encounters are richly enjoyable, both poignant and comic. Freda Dudley



Lady Caroline Blackwood's book on the last years of the Duchess of Windsor has been called both rivetingly awful and bizarrely absorbing

Ward, the chain-smoking Marchesa Casa Maury, the Duke of Windsor's first love, is at home in Chelsea, walking on a stick; but time has not healed the former mistress's resentment at being displaced by Wallis Simpson. Between gulps of Dubonnet, she shakes with laughter at the duchess's plight: "A horrible old lady locked up by another horrible old lady."

Lady Monckton, whose husband Walter wrote the abdication speech, is in a nursing home, but convinced that she is going to get out at any minute. "Like a child at boarding school," she kept saying she would be jetting off at any minute. These women weren't properly senile, but the past meant so much more to

them than the awful present, with nurses telling them to take a nap. Lady Diana Cooper hated old age; she said what's the point of people saying "How wonderful that Lady Diana still goes to the opera" if she feels awful all the time? They're all dead now, except Lady Mosley," says Lady Caroline, "who took a page in the *Evening Standard* to point out the errors in my book."

Publication of her book was out of the question until the litigious Maitre Blum died at 95 last summer. "Her power, while she lived, was phenomenal. People lived in fear of crossing her. And women lawyers were still rare when she began, so her achievement was remarkable. Even Mar-

cia [the defence lawyer] in the O.J. Simpson trial," says Lady Caroline, "has to overcome the fact that she is a woman, especially since she is prosecuting a man. People don't mind it so much if a woman defends a man."

But how did the lawyer assume her vice-like grip on the duchess's life? "The duchess started to fall apart once the duke died. Even if the duke irritated and bored her, which I think he did, with his dog-like devotion, he was sort of her point, do you know? And once he was gone, she got scared. Laura Marlborough said he was her umbrella; without him, she didn't

know what was to become of her: was she going to be on the street? She had been so poor as a child, she had absolutely no family, and couldn't understand about money, or French tax. She had no idea what her income was, and whether the Royal Family could stop it."

So Maitre Blum became the Cerberus at her door, and caused the duchess to be forgotten as if dead. If she was ill, there was no drama. But Maitre Blum was really in love with the duchess. She could not admit she was ill. Nor could she let anyone see her. So a lot of people like me thought she was dead."

As a child in Ulster, Lady Caroline was not allowed to hear

anything about the Wallis Simpson scandal. "In Ulster the combination of anything that threatened the monarchy, and sex, seemed even more horrifying. I'd no idea what she had done."

She grew up, the daughter of the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, on the Guinness estate at Clandeboyne. Every morning McAfee would take Caroline and her sister Perdita out riding on plump little barrel-bellied ponies. "You're all right!" McAfee would shout if they fell off while jumping walls and ditches. Once Perdita broke her collar-bone but McAfee told her not to fuss, and never to breathe a word.

Ulster "always seemed to me like the archetypal place where nothing would, or could, ever happen. Boredom seemed to be hanging over Northern Ireland like the grey mists that linger over her lochs," she wrote in 1973, when the Troubles had begun.

When she left school Lady Caroline went to work at the *Hulton Press* with Cland Cockburn, who gave her little reporting assignments. But it was not until she married Robert Lowell, then a Fellow of All Souls, that she began to write, encouraged by him. She has now written ten books, including a novel shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1977, and an amusing cookbook (with Anna Haycraft, alias Alice Thomas Ellis) called *Darling, You Shouldn't Have Gone To So Much Trouble*.

Everyone was riveted recently when Lady Caroline and her sister Lady Perdita and their sister-in-law Lady Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, challenged the wish of Maitre Blum, the dowager Marchioness, to leave her fortune to her granddaughters. Lady Caroline's daughters, skipping a generation, Caroline objected, not for herself (she has her own Guinness millions) but for the sake of her son Sheridan. "People imagined us all standing in court weeping. But all that happened was that the will was made clearer. I'd have preferred Sheridan to be included. But the girls get their money, so they're happy."

She lives in New York because her children, American though educated in England, have more opportunity there. "If you have an idea, English people are so sceptical and cynical they will say 'that's been done', but Americans say 'try it'."

Everett writes scripts in Hollywood, married to Julian Savaris. Sheridan works for a publishing company, and Ivana has produced a cookbook for Miramax called *An Appetite for Passion*. "All the recipes are sexy, and there are lots of stories like Byron wanting women only to eat lobster salad and champagne, otherwise it made him sick. You'd get fed up with that for breakfast, wouldn't you?"

At Sag Harbour Lady Caroline's white house was once the home of an obscure US President, Chester Arthur. She enjoys asking Americans what they know about President Arthur, which is invariably nothing. "Since he lived for only a week after he became President, he did nothing good nor harm."

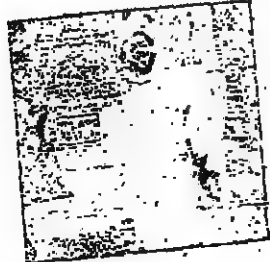
There may yet be a play of her book — with, the books, Zoe Caldwell (currently dazzling Americans as Caliban) as Maitre Blum. So we have not heard the last of *The Last of the Duchess*.

AT THE ALTAR OF HIGH ART

Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* has been cleaned of 500 years of candle smoke and is again on view. The rebirth of the world's greatest painting gives us a new perspective on the Renaissance, says Waldemar Januszczak — in *The Culture* this Sunday



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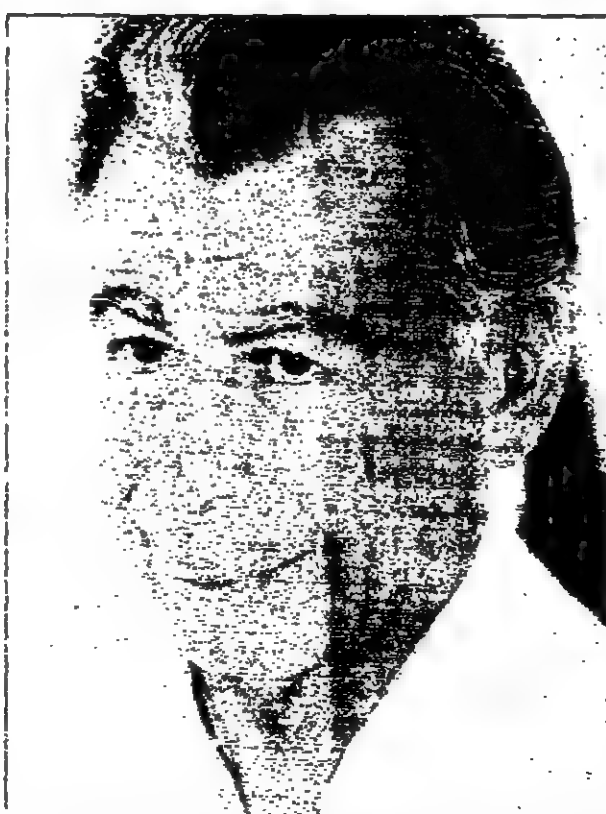


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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

A veteran hustler who hypnotises America

Ben Macintyre traces the career of the billionaire entrepreneur Kirk Kerkorian, who at 77 has launched his biggest ever bid — for Chrysler



Kerkorian: master of the art of buying and selling companies

The life of Kirk Kerkorian, Hollywood mogul and prospective buyer of the Chrysler Corporation, might have been produced on a B-movie budget. For this is a classic American tale of rags to riches: the son of a struggling Armenian fruit farmer in California, the high school dropout, amateur boxer and RAF flyer who goes on, by dint of guile and gumption, to become one of the most wealthy and reclusive men in America.

"I'm just a small-town boy who got lucky," he says, as the credits roll.

This week, at the age of 77, Kerkorian added yet another reel to an extraordinary personal epic by launching a surprise bid for Chrysler, America's third biggest vehicle maker, which is valued at \$22.8 billion (£15.2 billion).

Kerkorian already owns 10 per cent of Chrysler, and analysts noted that he might simply have been trying to push up share prices, a suggestion Kerkorian's spokesman denied.

On the strength of his announcement, Chrysler shares jumped more than \$12 to \$49.25, leaving the enigmatic billionaire with a profit, on paper, of more than \$400 million before anything has really happened.

The last person likely to explain the motives behind the bid is Kerkorian himself, a Delphic figure and master of the arcane art of buying, restructuring and reselling companies at a profit. Ranked number 23 on *Forbes Magazine*'s list of America's richest citizens, Kerkorian's net worth is estimated at \$2.5 billion after a business career incorporating casinos, hotels, airlines and, most recently, the car industry.

It did not start out that way. As his immigrant father struggled to make a living growing fruit in central California, Kerkorian was dropping out of what he calls a "semi-reform" school to become a lightweight amateur boxer known as "Rifle Right" Kerkorian — a sobriquet that still applies.

As an RAF pilot trainer during the Second World War, Kerkorian developed a passion for flying and until recent-

ly continued to fly his own jets. Soon after the war he was to be found swapping government-surplus planes, before setting up a charter service, Trans International Airlines, which he eventually sold in 1968 for \$104 million.

But it was in Hollywood that he earned his reputation as a hard-nosed financial baron of the old school. In 1969 he began buying stock in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and eventually gained control of the film

company, to which he later added United Artists. Kerkorian's interest in the art of film-making was strictly limited: indeed, one of the few recorded occasions on which he attempted to influence the content of MGM's output was the bizarre suggestion that Eddie Murphy replace Roger Moore in the James Bond films.

As a spokesman for his corporation, Tracinda, noted darkly in the wake of Kerkorian's latest investment gambit: "He doesn't run companies, he hires top-notch management to run them."

In 1985, Kerkorian sold MGM to the media entrepreneur Ted Turner for \$1.5 billion, promptly bought it back for \$670 million (minus the film library), and then sold it again in 1990 for \$1.3 billion.

In Las Vegas, meanwhile, he was buying, selling and building casino hotels, culminating in 1993 with the MGM Grand, the world's largest hotel. His airline, MGM Grand Air, offers flights of quite staggering luxury between Las Vegas, Los Angeles and New York: a private suite on one of Kerkorian's flights costs \$11,000, complete with champagne and caviar.

But while Kerkorian's "Rifle Right" was plainly visible in the hectic buying and selling (and hiring and firing), Kerkorian himself remained all but invisible as his empire grew.

The billionaire's aversion to the public eye and his taste for airlines and film studios have inevitably invited compari-

sons with the reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes. Twice married, once divorced, Kerkorian has two daughters (Tracey and Linda, after whom his company Tracinda is named), and has chosen his friends carefully — such as Cary Grant and Frank Sinatra — from the upper echelon of American celebrities while studiously avoiding publicity.

His colleagues and rivals say this characteristic has less to do with shyness or calculation, than an almost obsessive determination to get on with, and ahead of, the next deal.

"The longer you stay, the more odds work against you," Kerkorian once said. The septuagenarian capitalist still plays tennis daily, insists on driving his own car and shuffles between estates in Bel Air and Las Vegas. His charming manner belies a ruthless streak that has scorched many. He is regarded with a mixture of suspicion, fear and admiration, perhaps best reflected by a headline in yesterday's *New York Times*: "What's Kerkorian Up To, Anyway?"

But Kerkorian is a veteran Vegas gambler who knows how to play his cards close to his chest, and Wall Street will scan this lined poker face in vain for an answer.

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All the hot air cannot hide the truth about our phone service

WHEN decimal currency was introduced they held a meeting in the village hall to explain to the elderly of the parish what it was all about. The meeting was chaired, or rather patronised, by a saccharine lady from some government department. The young and middle-aged could learn new tricks by themselves, she said, but the old dears might need her help.

Turning to the one old lady who was still smiling sweetly she said, "well, here's one person who won't have any trouble with the new system, anyway".

"You're right, dear," said the old lady. "I won't. You see, I'm not joining."

The only thing I can't understand about this Phone Day malarkey with which BT plans to enliven our Easter weekend, is why fired (male) hacks want to persuade their readers that having to dial an extra 11 is a threat to Civilisation As We Know It on a par with decimalisation.

Old age has come early to those colleagues I hear reminiscing about the golden days when their phone number was just 225 or 431, and they could remember it without diving for the Flofax. The rest of us are taking this plegmatically, enjoying the streaker poster and wondering why BT, which has elongated and generally messed about with our numbers often enough before, is making such a meal of it this time. "Oh, people aren't worried," the 192 girl told me. "The customers have been quite good about it, so they have. We've had maybe the odd one, you know, but you just let them go on at you a bit because at the end of the day they'll learn, so they will."

If I choose to have three telephone lines and a separate fax line coming into the house I can't complain, can I, if BT starts running out of numbers?

There are thousands of idiots like me out there, home-workers who have turned decent, quiet houses where people used to live into teeming telecottages.

where two-legged insects scurry about day and night, surrounded hither and thither by bells and pings.

In truth, the only thing wrong with BT's wanting more numbers is that it is BT, not us, laying claim to them. Happily the Ofel regulator has spotted that little monopolistic trick and referred the question to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission who will surely rule that the numbers belong to us, or to Ofel on our behalf. That should put a stop to BT's lying on the heavy stuff (You realise you can't take your number with you, madam. If you take your custom to a competitor when Ionia comes into service later this year.

Nigel Playford, the Cambridge whizz kid who dreamt up the Ionia system based on radio technology and persuaded the City to back him with £100m, promises much. He promises a system that is vastly cheaper to install and run, which merely requires a 12in antenna on your roof, a miniaturised, house-high Telecom Tower for every 30,000 people, and positively no digging up of roads and killing of trees. Naturally he's all for the portability of telephone numbers.

WHAT HE cannot do, though, is give comfort to those who would rather not join in on Phone Day. "I'm afraid there's no way round it, those extra numbers really are needed," he said. "We thought it might be possible to simplify things but it isn't, because of the legacy of BT's network structure."

No good moaning about Phone Day, then. Let's moan about BT's real inequities, like charging for the 192 service, and refusing to give out addresses when they are apart from a few post offices, the sole owners of that public information. Let's moan about the Call Waiting scam, and their inability to index the business pages properly, and... I could go on, and on, and I really don't care about dialling an extra digit.

MARGOT NORMAN



The Bishop of London, David Hope, at his London home. "Like every young boy I wanted to be an engine driver. I used to go train spotting. I loved to see the steam trains"

Driver of the Gospel train

Dr David Hope, Bishop of London and Archbishop-designate of York, talks to Ruth Gledhill about his life, his beliefs and his loves

As the church moves into the Passion of Good Friday, to be followed by Easter, the ironies of his position are not lost on Dr David Hope, Bishop of London and Archbishop-designate of York. After a crucifixion at the hands of gay-rights activist Peter Tatchell, who forced him into confessing his sexuality was "ambiguous", he suffered three days in a kind of hell before learning to his astonishment that he was to rise through the ranks of the Church of England to its second-most senior job.

Not bad for a boy whose sole ambition was to drive a steam train, until talent-spotting in Yorkshire discovered he had the voice of an angel and offered him a choral scholarship to his local grammar school in Wakefield, with a place in the cathedral choir thrown in. There began his ascension to the top. Speculation has already begun that Dr Hope, who is 55 today, Good Friday, and who is younger than the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will one day move to Lambeth.

His success in cleaning up the notorious debauchery of St Stephen's House, an Oxford theological college, when principal there, before becoming vicar of All Saints in Margaret Street in London's West End in 1982, won him the nickname of "Ena the Terrible", after *Coronation Street's* Ena Sharples. He does not object to the name, earned because of his and the Street star's "bitchlike" reputations. "I've been called much worse in my time," he says.

He wears grey suits, his slicked-back hair is grey, and after his unforgettable "outing" by Mr Tatchell's *Outrage* last month he confessed that his sexuality was a "grey area". But beneath the grey exterior appropriate to a slight and private man lies a colourful, stout Yorkshireman who brooks no nonsense. It is generally accepted that he took on Mr Tatchell and won.

Dr Hope does not regret confessing about his sexuality. "I am basically an honest person. I felt it was right to be honest. There is nothing to be lost by that, and I felt it right to tell the truth. From the letters I have had, it is clear that there is a whole spectrum of experience out there, regarding people and their sexuality. There are ambiguities, and people do experience them for themselves. My main purpose was to make clear where I stood."

He wears a faint air of surprise when we return to the subject of archiepiscopal attainment. "Like every young boy I wanted to be an engine driver. I used to go train spotting at Doncaster. I loved to see the steam trains come by." The archbishop-designate's father had his own building business. "I had seriously thought of going into the building trade with my father," he says. "I used to ride on the backs of wagons. I have quite an instinct for buildings now. People say it's my father coming out in me. Now of course I'm in a different kind of building business."

He fingers the delicate silver cross which hangs over the top of his plain purple episcopal shirt, and goes unthinkingly into Latin: "Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam..." ("And I say to thee, You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Matthew xvi, 18.)

There was no Pauline blinding flash of light. His vocation grew within him, the seed planted when he won a choral scholarship, and becoming rooted when he read theology at Nottingham University.

"We were not a particularly churchy family. I was taken to church by my elder cousin who was like a big sister. She used to hook us off to Wakefield cathedral where it was a sung Eucharist," he says. "There were lights, there was incense, there was colour. My mother didn't believe in Sunday school so we used to go to this service. I was caught up in the whole atmosphere of the thing. That northern Tractarianism was not terribly self-conscious. I thought that

was the Church of England." Many thought that Tractarianism, or the Oxford Movement — the High Church Anglo-Catholicism which revitalised a lethargic church in the last century but has been struggling to survive in this — had been dealt its final death blow with the ordination of women priests in the Church of England last year. Dr Hope's appointment to York has reignited hopes of a phoenix-style Catholic revival in a church in danger of losing its way down the blind alleys of fundamentalist evangelicalism or noncommittal liberalism.

Despite early Catholic and Methodist influences, Dr Hope remained an Anglican, because "it was the church which nurtured me", but felt a vocation to celibacy from his earliest life.

"There were a number of clergy who were celibate in my early days," Dr Hope says. "It was a role model which appealed to me. I feel there is an element of self-offering and self-sacrifice about the ministerial priesthood, and that I wanted to give myself wholly to that. I never viewed it as a negative, but as a positive thing. You make available so far as you can your whole self, emotionally, spiritually, physically, to the people with whom you are ministering, but equally enjoying deep, close, warm relationships with people of both sexes."

Since he heard of his coming translation to York, expected to take effect before the end of the year, it is clear he has readily relaxed back into the stronger Yorkshire accent he feels most comfortable with.

From the broad smile on his face to the slightly restless feet, it is apparent to all of us who have known him since his arrival in London four years

ago that he can hardly wait to return to the North. He was happiest, he says, when working as a parish priest at Warrington in the early 1970s. "It was a large, 16,000-strong parish on a housing estate, with great opportunities to minister to people and offer the Gospel. I was ordained to be a priest in the Church of England. As bishop or archbishop, you must still retain the life of a priest."

As Archbishop of York he will be Primate of England, almost equal to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is Primate of all England and *primus inter pares*, first among equals. In the 70 million-strong Anglican Communion, Dr Carey, a southern evangelical, and Dr Hope, a northern catholic, could hardly be more different. But despite a reported rift between Lambeth Palace and London House two years ago, Dr Hope now says he enjoys "a warm and friendly relationship" with his colleague across the river.

In any case, episcopal disputes are nothing new, he says, adding with a mischievous grin: "One Bishop of London crowned William of Orange because the Archbishop of Canterbury was unwilling to break his oath of allegiance to James II." In any case, he says, he and Dr Carey both share a primary concern: the need to bring a secularised society back to the Gospel.

"There needs to be a particular focus on the Cross, the self-giving and self-offering of our Saviour on the Cross. We need to be reinforcing that. Our society has become far too self-indulgent and self-sufficient. There needs to be more of that self-offering and self-forgiving which is reflected in the powerful image, symbol and presence of Christ on the Cross."

All he asks, as he prepares to rise up through the church ranks to lead it into the next millennium, is that we trust and believe in Him.

"I am basically an honest person and I felt it right to tell the truth"

We spoke in his sparsely-furnished second-floor flat in Westminster, which he will shortly exchange for the sumptuous 13th-century archiepiscopal Bishopophor Palace, set in nine acres of well-tended gardens on the outskirts of York, after a lavish enthronement in York Minster, the largest of England's medieval cathedrals.

He is aware of the large numbers of people expecting, even hoping perhaps, for a skeleton to come tumbling out of his episcopal "it is a kind of unspoken thing, but there is an assumption that there must have been some involvement of some kind or another. I cannot do anything about that but get on with living my life the way I perceive to be right and proper. I just get on with living and let people draw their own conclusions, much as the Church has done."

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As a city prepares to honour a newspaper vendor, Magnus Linklater wonders who deserves a statue

Fanfare for common men

Tommy Small was not as famous as Winston Churchill. Nor can his contribution to history be seriously rated alongside that of William Wallace, who fought for Scottish independence, or James Chalmers, who invented the adhesive postage stamp. But in the centre of Dundee a man who sold newspapers in the streets for 60 years is to be commemorated with a bronze statue — the first public monument the city has erected this century — while other famous sons and daughters languish unrecalled.

It is a gesture on behalf of the ordinary citizen which has prompted some outrage and the odd guffaw, but is quite in character for Dundee. This, after all, is the place where the Palestinian flag once flew over the Council chambers, and whose socialist credentials are impeccable. One suspects that it will be some time before Churchill, who served as Dundee's MP for 15 years, is similarly honoured.

But there is something to be said for remembering a character who was as much a part of the city's landscape as many of its buildings. Tommy Small may have been a stranger to soap and water, and his customary attire of threadbare overcoat and knotted scarf had, by all accounts, barely changed since the Second

World War; but he had a strong sense of the values of the day, and his biting comments on the latest headlines of the *Evening Telegraph*, such as "that'll no sell many copies", are still remembered, if not always fondly. The 17th-century qualifications for a Burgess of the City included the phrase "pro consilio et audilio suo servando burgo de Dundee" ("counsel and aid in the service of the burgh") and who is to say that Tommy was any less useful than, say, Magister George Halliburton or Henry Cheip, Advocate, whose names are listed on the city's roll of honour, but whose contributions are long forgotten? As the Tayside director of planning, Jack Searle, put it: "Most statues are erected to people who made a lot of money or killed a lot of people. Why shouldn't we have one for a common man?"

There has certainly been less opposition to Tommy Small than there has been to more celebrated figures. "These days it is almost impossible to propose a public statue without exciting controversy or contempt. The memorial to Bomber Harris, unveiled by the Queen Mother in the

Strand, was roundly condemned as commemorating a mass murderer, besides being a boring monument. Leaving aside which of the hundreds of statues of Wellington, Marlborough or Nelson would escape these charges today, there seems to be no consensus

(Brian Sewell); Lord Mountbatten in Horse Guards Parade as "in the wrong place at the wrong time" (Paul Barker); and Charlie Chaplin in Leicester Square as "the urban equivalent of a garden gnome" (Alexander Walker).

Contemporary works are

"Surely history deserves recalling, whatever one's view?"

Tommy Small, paper-seller

as to who should choose memorials and what they should look like. A recent survey of contemporary statues in London condemned Churchill in Parliament Square as "the most hideous piece of public sculpture I can recall seeing" (Stephen Calloway); Lord Baden-Powell in Queen's Gate as inducing "an acute sense of the creeps"

nearly always derided. The sculptor Sophie Ryder had to remove five larger-than-life Minotaurs from outside Winchester Cathedral because of their "too prominent" genitalia. A full-frontal statue of a naked man in Abbotsbury in Dorset had to be turned to face away from the street so as not to offend the residents; and more recently, in a monstrous

act of vandalism, the heads were cut from Henry Moore's *King and Queen*.

Only pastiche works and curiosities seem to get away with it. Peter Pan, the floppy bunnies, King Kong, a giant Sumo wrestler, Sherlock Holmes or Robinson Crusoe can be found dotted uncontroversially around our towns. Last year, a small group of Robert Louis Stevenson admirers tried to have a statue erected on an open site on the Calton Hill in Edinburgh. The very idea was dismissed as "threatening the classical proportions of a city landmark".

Political prejudice, too, can sink a good scheme before it has got off the drawing-board. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the 1745 landing of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the raising of the Jacobite Rebellion. A sound reason, one might think, for erecting a memorial of sorts to commemorate that event. Yet when it was discussed informally last year, there were immediate objections. The Prince was nothing but an adventurer, his rising had led to the deaths of innocent people, his ambitions were purely selfish, etc.

Surely history deserves re-

calling, whatever one's view of it? Scotland's capital city is littered with grim relics of Hanoverian nonentities or brooding Victorians, yet one looks in vain for a single statue to any of the more romantic figures who lent it such lustre.

It may be indicative of our age that there seems to be more enthusiasm for the demolition of statues than for their construction.

Nothing of course can match the ambitions of the South Koreans, who intend to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their liberation from their national museum because it was built by the invaders. But one has heard less about what will replace it. They may wish to send a delegation to Dundee to see whether the example of Tommy Small suggests something on a more human scale.

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THE THIRD HOUR

And they crucified him (Mark 15:25)

In the late 15th century the monks of Isenheim in Alsace, commissioned from Mathias Grünewald a mammoth polyptych painting for their monastery. Grünewald's work is without doubt one of the major works of late medieval art, and of Christian art of all time. It was designed as an altarpiece to be used in the celebration of the Eucharist, as generations of Christians have done, the great altarpiece compelling the attention of the congregation, and especially of the dying and diseased patients tended by the community.

At the centre, when the altarpiece is closed, is a huge, tortured, plague-ridden Christ, dwarfing the figures who stand beneath: Mary, the Virgin Mother, and John, the beloved disciple, Mary Magdalene with the jar of precious ointment and, strangely out of place, the already married John the Baptist, who points insistently at the dying Christ. Behind the Baptist is the water of baptism, the sacramental symbol of both birth and death. The cupped hands of Christ, transfixed with nails, strain upwards in pleading prayer. All around darkness envelopes the whole land.

Grünewald's outcast, plague-ridden Christ speaks of total identity with our human condition, not just the patients of the Isenheim hospital suffering from the strange, incurable, fungal disease they called St. Anthony's fire, but all human disease and suffering, physical, mental and spiritual. The one who hangs there in agony is one of the world's religious and political leaders had wished to eliminate from the world. Both human justice and religious manipulation are judged by that tortured figure on the cross. So too is the God who in creating this world gave it a terrifying freedom, creating not only that freedom which love requires but a freedom which

allows the possibility of cancer and crime and the suffering of the innocent.

The Christian faith has dared to call this Friday "Good". St. John's Gospel speaks of this crucifixion as exaltation, the king ascending his throne, and the moment where Jesus is glorified. Why, and how? Here we are invited to see the cost and character of a Divine Love which in our humanity takes the weight of human sin and suffering, and takes responsibility for a world of pain and human agony. Here God, we may dare to say, knows from the inside the absence of God. That is his glory, that is his character, that is his very being and nature. Jesus cries, as his life drains away, "I thirst." The thirst is no less than the thirsting love of God for a fallen world and sinful humanity. And that thirst and love are drained, and concentrated in the suffering figure of Christ.

Crucified. Our human dying is a door through which our Creator has willed to pass. Here he reaches out to us in forgiveness and in healing. Here his church is born from the water and blood which flow from his side.

Grünewald's altarpiece has the crucifixion on the closed outer frame. When the frame is opened, panels depict the Annunciation, the Madonna and Child with an angelic choir, and a Resurrection in which Christ bursts from the tomb, ascending in a radiant aureole of light, the cupped hands with the prints of the nails raised in blessing. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness is not able to overcome it." The crucified Christ is raised as the first-fruits of God's new creation, not to undo or bypass the suffering of the Cross, but to declare a victory already won, the Easter victory of a love which will not let us down and which will not let us go. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

NO ROOM FOR DOUBT

A landmark judgment against the politics of intimidation

The High Court has cut through much of the special pleading about the rights which has surrounded the export of live animals for slaughter. In doing so, the judges have rendered powerful service to the rule of law in this country. The expression of civil rights must surely find its legal limit at the point where the rights of other citizens — in this case, of farmers — are abridged. The argument advanced to justify bans on these exports, imposed by the Dover port authority and sought by Coventry airport and by Plymouth Council, which attempted to close the city's Millbay Docks to livestock exports, was that they had a legal right to ensure the smooth running of these facilities and the safety of their customers. The judges rightly held that they had no such discretion under law: capriciousness "to the dictates of unlawful pressure" was inadmissible.

Nothing in this ruling abridges free speech or the right of lawful protest. That has never been the issue. Many people feel strongly about the immorality of exporting calves to countries where crate-rearing, banned in Britain since 1990, is widespread. But that is not the issue here either. The point forcefully made by the court was that rights of protest are unlawfully exercised if intimidation, obstruction or actual violence enter in — and that those who bow to such pressures are complicit in illegal acts. Had the judges ruled otherwise, a path would

have been laid for the return of intimidatory picketing to this country. The politics of menace would have been seen to pay.

The plans by Sussex police to restrict these exports to two sailings a week from Shoreham, and to arrest exporters for breaches of the peace if they deliver livestock on other days, already suggests a troubling precedent. Protest at Shoreham have put great strain on the police and cost taxpayers £3.7 million. But the law can only be brought into dispute if instead of targeting lawbreakers, authorities take action against those whose lawful conduct has attracted opposition. Demonstrators at Brighton, by contrast, have been told that they face arrest if they continue to obstruct traffic. The same should apply to protesters at Dover, where port authorities fear that they will put the port's entire business "at risk". The police have powers to protect the public, and must use them.

Animal welfare groups may argue that there is also a proud British tradition of civil disobedience. So there is, but it is in no sense a licence which exempts the disobedient from prosecution where their actions break the law. Mrs Pankhurst never argued that she should be immune from arrest. Leave to appeal, has been denied, because on the central issue of the rule of law, these cases leave "no room for doubt". Animal welfare activists should now exert peaceful pressure on Brussels to change the relevant European Community laws, and until they are changed, they should leave farmers alone.

UNDERWATER UNDERDOG

Britain will learn to love, and use, the Channel Tunnel

The British are supposed to love underdogs. So by rights, the ill-starred Eurotunnel and its equally unfortunate progeny, the Eurostar London to Paris express train, should enjoy the dewy-eyed affection of the British public. Yet for some reason, Britain leaps at the chance to ridicule the Channel Tunnel and all who pass through it.

Scarcely was the ink dry this week on Eurotunnel's announcement that the company could soon be "overwhelmed" by its debts, when a Eurostar train broke down for no apparent reason in the Kent countryside and delayed 2,400 passengers. The normal British reaction might have been an upsurge of sympathy for Eurotunnel and Eurostar. Instead, all the sympathy went to the passengers, who will receive full compensation — unlike the passengers of airlines and ferries who suffer delays due to technical hitches, storms or strikes.

All kinds of grand sociological and historical reasons can be suggested for the public's lack of affection for the Channel Tunnel: it has destroyed Britain's sense of splendid isolation; it threatens the cross-Channel ferry which are all that is left of a great seafaring heritage; technological advances have always aroused suspicion in an essentially Luddite nation.

There are, however, two more plausible and specific explanations for the Channel's failure to win British hearts. First, both Eurotunnel and Eurostar have proved remarkably incompetent at public relations:

they have set unrealistic opening dates and sold tickets, only to cancel them at short notice; they have started passenger services before their trains were properly tested; they have invented a needlessly complex booking and check-in system; in the Kent breakdown they even committed the ultimate sin of transport operators by failing to tell their stranded passengers what was going on.

Secondly, and more seriously, Eurotunnel was almost doomed to failure by the way it was financed, with far too much debt and not enough equity. Most of the public relations disasters were caused directly by the company's desperate rush to start earning money before the impatient bankers called in the receivers.

If Eurotunnel as a company went bankrupt, the tunnel itself would, of course, remain. Freed of debt, its commercial success would be assured as it cut prices and put the ferries out of business. However, for the pro-market ideology that transformed Britain in the 1980s, Eurotunnel's financial failure would be a disaster. Not only would it ruin the Government's efforts to attract private sector money into other infrastructure projects. It would also confirm the public's unhealthiest suspicions about the world of finance: that the banks are shortsighted, that the stockmarket is a casino, and that only the Government can get big things done. If Eurotunnel failed, Britain might learn to love it. But it would be a high price to pay for our fondness for underdogs.

Aitken and UK arms sales

From Sir James Blyth and Sir Colin Chandler

Sir, Commentators are keen to be mean the United Kingdom's decline in manufacturing. Yet one of our manufacturing success stories in recent years has been our defence industry. That success has contributed substantially to the country's export trade (£6,800 million in 1994) and, by maximising economies of scale, helped to reduce the cost of equipment to the British taxpayer.

We know from our experience at the Ministry of Defence that winning orders in the face of the most formidable international competition requires the establishment of trust between the UK and our overseas friends. That takes time — even decades — to build and calls for a unique level of co-operation between industry and government.

Saudi Arabia is one of the UK's closest allies and a vital force for stability in the Middle East. The alliance between our two countries has resulted in very substantial export orders for UK companies which have served to sustain hundreds of thousands of jobs in Britain.

Many industrialists complain that too few politicians have experience of the real world of business. In our view, the interests of the UK and its industry were extremely well served by Jonathan Aitken who, as a defence minister, was a great help to industry in assisting our case throughout the world. His practical experience in trade and commerce, and the respect he commanded elsewhere, meant that he brought an invaluable dimension to his ministerial responsibilities.

A free press is essential for democracy — and business — to flourish. However, for many years now, the efforts of our dedicated export teams have been gravely hampered, and indeed, on occasions seriously damaged, by irresponsible journalism which may win press awards but has the power to undermine Britain's relationships and destroy real manufacturing jobs, not only here in the UK but, through collaborative projects, in many other parts of Europe as well.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BLYTH
(Head of Defence Sales,
Ministry of Defence, 1981-89),
COLIN CHANDLER
(Head of Defence Export Services,
Ministry of Defence, 1985-89),
c/o Vickers plc,
Millbank Tower, SW1,
April 13.

Recourse to the law

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, I doubt whether Simon Jenkins ("Why he is wrong to sue", April 12), unlike Jonathan Aitken, has been accused of procuring women for prostitution, hypocrisy and then implicit corruption, both by a respected paper and by a TV programme at peak viewing time. Not all viewers are as sophisticated as Mr Jenkins. They may believe there is no smoke without fire. Such savage indictments are not merely "judicious", and cannot be lightly brushed aside with a gentlemanly denial. Enough common sense sticks from them to end a ministerial career.

In *Othello*, Cassio said: "I have lost my reputation... the immortal part of myself...". In Shakespeare's day those castigated could resort to the flawed process of force for satisfaction, and at least critics thought twice before offending the fit and strong. Today the processes of justice are still flawed and only the rich and tough can win whatever satisfaction there is to be had through the lottery of the courts. If Mr Aitken feels as strongly as Cassio, so be it.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON,
The Old Rectory,
Adstock, Buckingham,
April 12.

From Mr George Stern

Sir, When Simon Jenkins, an eminent and veteran journalist and former Editor of *The Times*, says that he knows of almost no big defamation case in the High Court which yielded a just verdict, the time has come to ask why we should not simply abolish the whole lot of defamation.

In the USA public figures can virtually never sue for defamation, and no one claims that, as a result, good people will not enter public life.

In most European countries, defamation is a very minor crime handled by the lowest level of court. Fines of £10 or £100 are typical. If anybody wants to be defamatory he can be, and no one clamours for British-style million-pound cases.

If we abolish defamation, who would lose? A smear causing financial loss could still be sued for — malicious falsehood; but by ordinary English law, where you have to strictly prove actual quantified damage, not just weep in the witness box.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STERN,
6 Eton Court, 6 Shepherds Hill, N6.

From Mr H. M. Salewitz

Sir, Mr Aitken has learnt from his colleagues how, when in difficulties, to exploit his family by parading them before the cameras.

How crude it all is. How vulgar. Yours faithfully,
H. M. SALEWITZ,
43 Tetherdown, N10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Care of the sick and unemployed

From Mrs Rosemary Waud

Sir, Thirty-four billion pounds are saved a year by the disabled being cared for at home. My husband became paraplegic in August 1994. Since being discharged from hospital, he needs constant care for 24 hours a day. I am only too pleased to do it.

I applied for a carer's allowance which I was granted. I was told that as you are not allowed to receive two allowances my state old age pension was reduced, leaving me with a net payment of £3.10p per week for the allowance. The reason given was that as I am too old to do a job I do not warrant the allowance to replace a salary. Yet, at 64, I am not considered too old to look after a seriously disabled spouse.

Seventy-five per cent of carers suffer poor health, working under pressure day and night. Advantage is being taken of the fact that their voluntary services are performed mainly out of love. Justice demands that their allowance should be payable without deduction.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY WAUD,
Weirfield Holt, Hinchesley,
Brookhurst, Hampshire,
April 12.

From Mr I. D. Young

Sir, Care of the elderly is acknowledged as an increasing problem, requiring co-operation between all aspects of government and the individual. My own experience does not suggest that such co-operation exists.

Having converted the annex to our Victorian house into a "granny flat", leaving internal access to the rest of the house, I found the flat was deemed by the Department of the Environment to be a "separate dwelling", and I became liable for the separate council tax on it. Furthermore after my el-

derly mother-in-law, now 93, suffered a stroke and had to be moved back into the main house, I was told I was still required to pay half the council tax on the empty flat.

After correspondence with the local authority we have recently been awarded an exemption, but surely it is wrong that people like us — we are pensioners ourselves — should be penalised for the savings we are making to public funds by avoiding the need for an elderly dependent parent to go into a care home.

Yours faithfully,
I. D. YOUNG,
Harbour View, St Agnes Lane,
Chelston, Torquay, Devon.

From Mr J. C. Pailier

Sir, My wife is unemployed and because her married name begins with "P" her signing-on day is Wednesday. Therefore her working week begins on the same day.

She occasionally does temp work, and most of her jobs begin on Monday and end on Friday. The local jobscentre in its wisdom has decided that she loses two weeks' dole money for working this one week, as the period extends, it argues, over two weeks.

Is it just or logical that my wife should be so penalised when someone signing on at the same centre whose name begins with "A" would lose only one week?

During my Army days there was an enlightened officer who, every other week, worked through the payroll in reverse.

There must be many other instances where someone with a name towards the end of the alphabet is unfairly penalised.

Yours sincerely,
J. C. PAILIER,
14 Woodford Close,
Caversham, Reading, Berkshire.

Democracy in Europe

From the Vice-President of the European Parliament

Sir, I notice that, in a speech over the weekend, the former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, MP, called for the abolition of the elected European Parliament ("Scrap this costly vanity", April 13). It would appear that the anti-European wing of the Tory party is becoming anti-democratic.

If Mr Lamont wants to abolish the European Parliament purely on the grounds of cost why does he not just call for the abolition of the House of Commons while he is at it? Perhaps he would be happy for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to make all decisions in secret.

It is widely accepted that there is a "democratic deficit" at the European Union level: because of geopolitical changes some decisions have shifted from the member state level to European level but are not taken by the

democratically elected representatives of the people. Decisions which affect the lives of millions of European Union citizens are taken by 15 people meeting in secret in the Council of Ministers.

That cannot be right in a modern democratic system. That is why reforms were instituted, through the Single European Act and the Maastricht treaty on European union, to allow co-decision-making between the European Parliament, acting on behalf of the European citizens, and the Council of Ministers, representing the interests of the member states.

Democratic progress at European Union level should be furthered at the inter-governmental conference in 1996. It cannot be made by abolishing the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MARTIN
(MEP for Lothians (Labour)),
4 Lothian Street,
Dalkeith, Midlothian.

Gem of a church

From Mr R. N. Lines

Sir, BBC1 is to be congratulated on *Words from Jerusalem*, an imaginative presentation of the Easter Gospel, through John Cleland's seven readings in a Buckinghamshire church, which started on Palm Sunday.

It is sad, however, that viewers have not so far been able to see more details of that magnificent church. All Saints at Hillesden, a unique gem and an architectural masterpiece, coeval and comparable on a smaller scale with King's College Chapel and the main staircase at Christ Church, Oxford. The fuzzy, out-of-focus lenient altar cloth shown behind Sir John gives no clue to the splendour of the church.

As a frame to the readings, either at the outset or at the end, a view or views of the exterior, the roof screen or the angel choir would have served to remind viewers of the triumph of faith in the late Middle Ages/early Renaissance, reinforcing the message of the triumph of Christ through the resurrection in St John's Gospel.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS LINES,
21a Cheries Avenue,
Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire,
April 10.

Old acquaintance

From Mr Kristen Moller

Sir, I can contribute to your correspondence on the subject of acquaintances. A letter of mine which you published in 1991 brought a prompt response by post from someone I last saw in school in 1937 when I was 14 fletters, March 31, April 5 and 6.

His letter began: "I think you must be the young Moller I put on punishment drill for persistent talking during service in the Lady Chapel of Rochester Cathedral." I was able to confirm that this was so. Having kept a diary at the time I could even give him the actual day.

The incident stuck in my memory because he had just been appointed a prefect and I happened to be his first victim.

The meeting we subsequently arranged took place under much happier circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
K. MOLLER,
Grooms Cottage,
Upper Seagry,
Chippingham, Wiltshire,
April 6.

Iran allegations

From the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sir, I was surprised by your report, "Iranians 'raped on death row'" (March 31), particularly in the context of your call for reconciliation between Islam and the West. In your leading article, "Read the Koran", on the previous day.

The allegations were made by Lord Avebury and also by a self-confessed member of a well-known terrorist organisation. The so-called Mujahidin Khalq Organisation of Iran has for over a decade waged an armed operation against the people of Iran. Publication of such unsubstantiated allegations is inconsistent with the views expressed in your leading article, which says: "International society needs a dialogue of reconciliation today between Western and Islamic thinkers as urgently as it once needed harmony between Christians and Jews."

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMMAD SAFAEI,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
16 Prince's Gate, SW7,
April 12.

From Mr G. F. de C. Sizer

Sir, In 1972 you kindly printed a letter of mine as part of a correspondence. A couple of years later, unknown to me, these letters were reproduced in the *New Yorker* magazine under the heading "There'll always be an England". I learned of this when I got a letter from Mrs Ruth Sizer Marshall, who sent me many papers about her father's family.

We have corresponded with great pleasure for 20 years and she has visited us. She showed us the document granting 405 acres of land on Pamunkey Creek in King William county in the colony of Virginia to forebears who settled there in 1702.

Sir, you span the ages and the continents.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF SIZER,
64 St Mary's Road, Benfleet, Essex.

Sports letters, page 35

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Issues at heart of fishing dispute

From the Director of WWF-UK (World Wide Fund for Nature)

Sir, The European Union seems to me to regard the Grand Banks fishing dispute as a political and legal matter, when at its heart it is, of course, a conservation issue.

Whilst this trans-Atlantic slanging match continues in a blaze of publicity, the much more significant UN conference for the management of high-seas fish stocks has been taking place, virtually unnoticed, in New York. These negotiations hinge on achieving an agreement for a legally binding international treaty to conserve the world's fisheries with strong enforcement measures to ensure compliance.

As in Brussels, these negotiations have been dogged by legal arguments, political point-scoring and uncompromising self-interest by the key fishing nations, including those of the EU. This obstructionism is extraordinarily frustrating for those of us who want to see our oceans managed for the well-being of everybody.

The fish in the seas provide nearly a third of all protein consumed in the developing world. The pillage of the oceans, directly supported by irresponsible governments, makes a mockery of sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PELLEW,
Director,
World Wide Fund for Nature,
Panda House, Weiside Park,
Carnegie Lane, Godalming, Surrey,
April 11.

From Señor Luis M. Esteruelas

Sir, You report (March 27) that engine size on Spanish fishing vessels is incorrectly registered, as there is a discrepancy between the figures given by the Spanish authorities and those on the Lloyd's Register of Shipping. Particular reference was made to two vessels, the *Andra Maza* and the *Arretxinagako Mikel Deuna*.

In fact, both these vessels had their engine power modified in 1981, reducing it to 597 hp and 590 hp, respectively. This reduction was already shown in the list of fishing vessels contained in Annex IX of Spain's Treaty of Accession to the European Community of 1985. Furthermore, the *Andra Maza* was decommissioned in June 1994. These measures were carried out in accordance with the reduction scheme of the EC by which the fishing power of all member states should be decreased.

The accuracy of the Lloyd's register should be checked, as far as these details are concerned, against the properly updated official sources which are at the disposal of the press.

On these grounds we would dispute the newspaper reports, to which you refer, saying that "dozens of vessels have apparently been registered in Spain with incorrect engine sizes".

Spanish registry inspectors, like their British counterparts, would detain any vessel discovered to have made an incorrect entry about engine size. All member states supply their registers to the European Union and any discrepancies would be duly and immediately noted by these authorities.

Yours faithfully,
LUIS M. ESTERUELAS
(Counsellor for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food),
Spanish Embassy,
24 Belgrave Square, SW1,
April 12.

From Mr O. Klass

Sir, Has no one ever wondered where some of these Spanish fishing vessels came from? Perhaps the Government should be reminded of its folly of allowing the sale of redundant fishing vessels during the 1980s.

Many of the vessels were sold to Spain complete, I remember, with their old fishing registry numbers boldly emblazoned on their bows. The owners of some of these vessels, having collected a more than realistic sum for this ageing fleet, are now crying foul and unfurling the maple leaf.

Yours sincerely,
O. KLASS,
22 Elm Grove Road,
Gorleston, Norfolk,
April 13.

Disputed legacy

From Mr Adam Bruce

Sir, I read with interest your reports (April 11) on the Selkirk peerage case, and the effect of Lord James Douglas-Hamilton's disclaimer on his late uncle's legacy. Under the terms of section 3(3) of the Peerage Act 1963, if Lord James is successful in his claim to the earldom, his disclaimer need not bar him from inheriting the legacy. There may yet be gold at the end of this particular rainbow.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BRUCE,
McGrigor Donald (solicitors),
68-73 Queen Street, Edinburgh 2.

High days

From Mr Quentin Purdy

Sir, I notice that my in-laws' kitchen calendar has replaced Easter Day with a new festival known as "Phone-day".

Yours faithfully,
QUENTIN PURDY,
2 Paper Buildings, Temple, ECI.

OBITUARIES

GROUP CAPTAIN GEORGE GILROY

Group Captain George Gilroy, DSO, DFC and Bar, wartime fighter ace, died on March 25 aged 79. He was born in Edinburgh on June 1, 1915.

WHEN, with four of his comrades of 603 (County of Edinburgh) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, George Gilroy intercepted and shot down a Heinkel He111 over Rosyth in October 1939, it was the first RAF kill of the Second World War. It was also the first German aircraft to be brought down over British soil since 1918. Given that the top speed of 603's biplane Gladiators was actually 50 mph slower than that of the Heinkel — a case of a British fighter design owing much to the first war putting itself against German aviation technology of the second — it was not a bad achievement.

The fact that an interception had taken place at all was something of a miracle since the 10th of Forth's warning radar went on the blink at the critical moment. Nevertheless, Nos 602 and 603 squadrons bagged two Heinkels on that day, but could not prevent the cruisers Southampton and Edinburgh from being severely damaged by German bombs at their berths in Rosyth Dockyard.

With a final tally of 21 kills from a combat career that lasted from the earliest aerial clashes of the war through to the end of 1943 and the air battles over Italy, Gilroy was among the top echelon of British aces. In that period he had several close brushes with death.

George Kemp Gilroy worked as a sheep farmer in the 1930s, but he also joined 603 Squadron, into which he was commissioned in 1938. From soon after the outbreak of war the squadron's Gladiators were regularly involved in action against the Luftwaffe, in its early attempts to penetrate British airspace over the east coast of Scotland.

In November 1939 the squadron was re-equipped with Spitfires which enabled it to engage with the enemy on a more equal footing. Gilroy had shot down a number of enemy bombers, and been awarded his first DFC, by the time No 603 was moved south in August 1940 to take part with 11 Group in the Battle of Britain. Operating out



of Horsham, it was to become one of Fighter Command's most effective units, accounting for more than a hundred raiders during the battle.

Fairly soon Gilroy was adding Messerschmitt fighters to his toll of bombers. But on September 1 he was himself hit by cannon fire from a German fighter; his fuel tanks caught fire and he had to bale out. Unfortunately for him, he came down over Dagenham shortly after a German pilot had been seen descending by

parachute over the area. In the climate of war — in which East London homes had suffered terrible damage and loss of life to men, women and children — the Home Guard of Dagenham were, understandably, not in a merciful mood.

Gilroy came under fire from the first Home Guard men to reach him, but was thankfully to survive to record that their aim was not of the best. It fell to a bus conductress, who recognised the uniform of the Royal Air Force in spite

of Gilroy's badly burnt state, to interpose herself between the wounded pilot and the wrath of his would-be executioners. She made sure he was taken to hospital where his severe burns were treated.

In his hospital bed he was visited by the Mayor of Dagenham who presented him with a cheque for £10 as compensation for the shock he had received from the vigilance of the local fencibles. With this — in those days considerable sum — Gilroy stood a round for any of his young pilots who shot down an enemy aircraft, for some time afterwards. When the Battle of Britain ended and Fighter Command went on the offensive in 1941 Gilroy continued to add to his score.

In the summer of 1941 he was given command of 609 Squadron. An inspiring leader, he set the example as an unrelentingly combative pilot. In 1942 the squadron was equipped with the new Typhoon which, although it was not a success as a high altitude interceptor, proved good at countering the Luftwaffe's low-level nuisance raids on the South Coast of England. In June that year he was awarded his second DFC.

He then went to North Africa in command of a wing of Spitfires. He was a remarkably successful wing leader and continued to wreak fear-some punishment on the enemy. German fighters, bombers and transport planes fell to his guns and this progress continued when the invasion of Sicily began and he flew against the Italian air force. Many times wounded, he nevertheless continued to take a toll, before being promoted group captain and returning to England. Until the end of the war he commanded the RAF stations Wittering and Blakelaw. He had been awarded the DSO in the summer of 1943 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross of the United States in 1944.

He left the RAF at the end of the war but rejoined the RAAF, returning to his old squadron, No 603, of which he was commanding officer until 1949. In the meantime he took up farming in Kirkcubrightshire where he became a notable breeder of Galloway cattle.

His first wife, Evelyn, died in 1984. He is survived by his second wife, Jane, and by two sons and a daughter.

DENNIS KING

Dennis King MBE, stained glass craftsman, died on March 5 aged 82. He was born on May 15, 1912.



DENNIS KING was an expert restorer of medieval stained glass who worked on some of the finest examples of ecclesiastical art in the country.

He started to practise his craft in the early 1930s, when it was generally considered that restoration work on medieval windows carried out by Victorian craftsmen — who tended to favour strong colours — was garish and should go. The thinking was that windows, whenever possible, should be returned to the more muted tones of the original.

However, by the 1960s a spirited campaign by John Betjeman and the Victorian Society had produced a sea-change in attitudes. Gradually King found himself being asked to restore not only a 14th-century original, but its later additions also. Both were coming to be considered equally interesting parts of the window's history — though the recent arguments over Augustus Pugin's window at Sherborne Abbey show how strong the anti-Victorian feeling still is in some quarters.

King preserved the work of many talented Victorian craftsmen, including Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. His talents extended beyond stained glass restoration. He had the passion of an art historian and an antiquary, combined with an encyclopaedic knowledge of heraldry and iconography. If a restoration job had been performed incorrectly, King could unjam the elements.

Among some of his more noteworthy restoration jobs was that of the Jesse Tree in the east window of Winchester College Chapel. Dating from 1380, this had been replaced in the 19th century by a copy and the precious glass widely dispersed, some pieces as far afield as America. With a group of architects, King located and reassembled the original glass into the original design which, on a smaller scale, he then reconstructed in a side chapel.

At Long Melford Church in Suffolk he worked, from 1957 to 1983, on the 15th-century clerestory windows. Individual figures from these, deco-

rated with armorial bearings, had been scattered to other parts of the church such as the chancel. King re-assembled them close to their old position, but at a lower level so that they could be seen easily by the congregation.

There was also ongoing restoration work at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, from 1961, and at the chapel of Merton College, Oxford, 1962-91. One of his last major projects was assembling stained glass windows at the Tower of London. Although there had been no stained glass there previously, King composed a sympathetic geometric arrangement from 19th-century glass fragments.

Dennis George King was born in Norwich, the son of a decorative artist who gilded cinema interiors and painted ornamental mouldings as well as working in glass. He was educated at Norwich School, and then joined his father in business, setting up a glazier's workshop in the cathedral close. They quickly came to specialise in stained glass (and

were joined by a third generation — Dennis King's son Michael — in the 1960s). During the war, as a pacifist, King served as an ARP warden.

Apart from his own commissions he was generous with his expertise. He acted as a consultant to the York Minster and Canterbury Cathedral glaziers, and was invited by the Soprintendenza di Venice to advise on the 16th-century windows in the south transept of San Giovanni e Paolo.

He was a freeman of both the City of London and the City of Norwich, and he was a member of numerous organisations and associations, and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass.

He was an elder and deacon of the Congregational, now the United Reform, Church, and he was appointed MBE in 1979.

His wife Hilda, whom he married in 1935, died in 1989, and he is survived by their two sons and a daughter.

ALASTAIR MUIR



Alastair Muir, former chairman of TOCH and Director of Public Relations for the National Trust, died from cancer on March 5 aged 67. He was born on August 13, 1927.

A FORMER executive with ICI, Alastair Muir brought business methods to two voluntary organisations with which he worked. As a dedicated Anglican and lay reader, he held for five years the chairmanship of TOCH — the Christian fellowship founded by "Tubby" Clayton at Poperinge near Ypres in 1915 and later based on the church of All Hallows by the Tower in London — and saw the organisation through some difficult times of adjustment.

He did the same with the National Trust, of which he became Director of Public Relations in 1962, serving in that post until he retired in 1987. He was one of the first to recognise the need to preserve beautiful tracts of coastline

and countryside just as much as precious buildings.

Alastair William Erskine Muir was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, and at Eton. He did his National Service with the Royal Navy, being commissioned as a sub-lieutenant, before going up to New College, Oxford, in 1948 to read history. Always keenly interested in music, he played the viola in the university orchestra.

Nearly half his life was spent in the service of ICI, which he joined in 1950. Starting off as a trainee in the supply department, he later worked mainly abroad, becoming head of ICI's Africa department in 1968 and of its Pacific department in 1973. He enjoyed encouraging development, and in Africa took pride in having ensured ICI investment and in having founded a variety of factories, particularly in Kenya and Zambia.

In the Far East he led the way in investing in Taiwan, setting up a highly successful paints factory there in the late 1970s. Aware of the then emerging Japanese challenge, he sought to understand Japan's business methods and came to appreciate its culture. He retired from ICI as head of central purchasing in 1982 and immediately went to work for the National Trust.

A man of artistic tastes, he kept up his interest in music to the end of his life and was also active in the world of the visual arts (while at Oxford he had founded the university art club and launched the New College JCR picture-buying scheme). He is survived by his wife, the mosaicist Jane Muir, and by their two sons.

PRISCILLA LANE

Priscilla Lane, Hollywood actress, died in Andover, Massachusetts, on April 4 aged 77. She was born in Indianola, Iowa, on June 12, 1917.

THERE were three Lane Sisters: Rosemary, Lola and Priscilla, all of whom went to Hollywood to seek their fortunes, and all of whom were signed up as contract players by Warner Brothers.

For a time they appeared together, first in the 1937 film *Variety Show*, and then in a series of sentimental dramas beginning with *Four Daughters* (1938), and continuing with *Four Wives* (1939) and *Four Mothers* (1940).

But Priscilla, a blue-eyed blonde, the youngest and prettiest of the trio, was forging ahead to make a career on her own. In 1938 she starred opposite Ronald Reagan in *Brother Rat*, and the following year made *The Roaring Twenties* with James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart.

She had other notable roles in *Saboteur* with Robert Cummings (1942) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* with Cary Grant in 1944. Although never considered an outstanding actress, Lane was a popular star and appeared in dozens of successful productions. One of the four films she made in 1939, *Yes My Darling Daughter*, achieved notoriety when it was banned by New York censors because her character induced a man to spend an unchaperoned — though totally innocent — weekend with her.



In an era when stars did what they were told, or else, Lane also gained a reputation for independence. Warner Brothers suspended her at least twice when she refused to take roles which she considered unsuitable.

One of five sisters, whose original surname was Mulligan, Priscilla Lane studied at a music conservatory in Des Moines, Iowa, before being discovered by the bandleader

Fred Waring in the mid-1930s.

She and Rosemary entered showbusiness as vocalists with Waring's band, the Pennsylvanians, and toured for several years before joining Lola in Hollywood, where their eldest sister had been playing minor roles since 1929.

Priscilla Lane retired from acting in 1948 after making the film *Bodyguard*, marrying an Air Force colonel and moving to New Hampshire where she settled and raised a family.

Her only return to show business was as host of a local Boston television programme in 1958.

Widowed in 1976, she also outlived both her sisters and is survived by two sons and two daughters.

CANON LESLIE TIRRELL

Canon Leslie Tirrell, Director of Education for the dioceses of London and Southwark, 1949-71, died on March 17 aged 88. He was born on February 19, 1907.

THE Butler Education Act of 1944, with its provision for "controlled" or "aided" church schools, started a new chapter in the relationship between the State and the Churches. What Parliament had laid down — including the provision for an "agreed syllabus" for religious education — had to be worked out in practice by the various Anglican dioceses in conjunction with the relevant local education authorities, and always under the all-seeing eye of the Ministry of Education.

The Church of England thus found itself facing a new need: for educational experts who were skilful negotiators, diligent administrators and who, in the complexities of their work, would never lose sight of its main purpose — the educational welfare of children, whether they were in church or local authority schools.

Such an exemplary diocesan director of education was Leslie Burditt Tirrell. Born at Oudby in Leicestershire, he attended the City Boys School in Leicester, and subsequently took the London BSc degree via the Leicester University College. After training at

Salisbury Theological College he was ordained at Leicester in 1931, serving his title at Loughborough and then moving on to a further curacy at Alnwick in 1934. From 1937 to 1941 he was vicar of Ugham before being appointed in the latter year vicar of Tynemouth, where he combined his duties at the Priory Church with the chaplaincy of Tynemouth School.

The major change in his life came in 1949 when he was summoned south by Dr William Wand, the Bishop of London, and Dr Bertram Simpson, his opposite number at Southwark, to oversee church schools and take responsibility for religious teaching on both sides of the Thames. This was a big job — indeed, it represented an important post as any (except perhaps for the secretaryship of the National Society) on the educational side of the Church of England.

Tirrell found himself working closely with the LCC — after 1964 the GLC — and with a multitude of local authorities, since his "parish" reached well out into Middlesex and Surrey where the educational work of the LCC did not run. He was appointed an honorary canon of Southwark in 1951 and served as a proctor in convocation for the diocese, 1959-64.

But his chief work was always that of Director of

Education. He held the post, serving both London and Southwark, for 22 years and brought vision and efficiency to it. His *Aided Schools Handbook* was an invaluable guide to the intricacies of the law in relation to what were, in effect, still voluntary denominational schools — though their number tended to shrink as the cost of maintaining their buildings grew.

In 1971 Tirrell was appointed deputy general secretary of the National Society, the Anglican body that traditionally had had the overall responsibility for all church schools and training colleges. It was probably a little late for him to make such a change — in any event, he stayed with the National Society for only four years before taking up retirement in Surrey, where he kept his hand in by becoming the inspector of church schools for the Leatherhead deanery.

First and foremost a pastor, he always enjoyed such "extra curricular" opportunities as he got. For 30 years he was chaplain to the Queen's Own Regimental Association and he took great pleasure in the varied and lively characteristics that he took on the Continent. He was also a member of the Church Schools Company.

He is survived by his second wife, Margaret, his first wife, Estelle, having died in 1977. He had no children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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MR. TRUMAN'S CAREER DELIBERATIVE AND PATIENT MIND

When the Democrats at their party convention in Chicago last July rejected Mr. Henry Wallace as their candidate for the Vice-Presidency in the election of 1944 they chose as his successor Mr. Harry Truman, a Senator from Missouri, who was sworn in on Thursday night as the thirty-second President of the United States. Senator Truman was not the most famous of the Democrats who might have been chosen to fight the election at President Roosevelt's side, but he was the most acceptable. He himself did not want the nomination. He had gone to Chicago to support the candidature of Mr. James Byrnes. Now within less than a year of that day of political compromise, Senator Truman is President.

It was said of President Truman that when he was elected a Senator in 1934 he learned to conduct himself indifferently on the national stage. It was also said of him that next to President Roosevelt he was the civilian who knew most about the war. It is this side of his record — a patient and deliberative mind intent on finding answers to national questions — that gives the chief clue to his character. He has made no spectacular moves in Washington, but he has made many that have been of great value to the country's war effort. Soon after America entered the war he became concerned about waste in

ON THIS DAY April 14 1945

President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, and was succeeded by the Vice-President of the United States, Harry Truman, who was to surprise both his countrymen and the world at large by his ability to grow in office.

He wanted to be sure that everything was being done to make America's contribution to the war effort successful, and at his own expense he made many tours of the country's centres of war production. Soon afterwards the Senate War Investigating Committee under his chairmanship was formed.

The "Truman Committee" — as it became widely known — made itself a spur to the Administration, the Army, and the Navy. It watched the question of shortages; it compelled the Navy to abandon the use of obsolete landing ships. Throughout the whole range of American war production it was on the alert, and what it discovered or what it felt should be changed was

passed on to President Roosevelt for his guidance and action. To have made this reputation in a Senate Committee was not enough to make President Truman a national figure in the fuller sense; yes he had his following. He became more confident as he saw his work on the committee achieving results.

Harry S. Truman was born on a farm in Missouri in 1884. Here he spent most of the first 13 years of his life. He proved himself a good farmer. He became a major in the war of 1914-18, and then returned to Kansas City at the armistice. After a short period in business he turned to politics. From State politics he entered national politics in 1934 as Senator for Missouri. He supported the New Deal, though in later years he did not hesitate to criticise some of its policies. As the economic depression was overcome he continued quietly and dutifully at his work in Washington. The war changed the whole life of Washington — slowly at first, but none the less surely. President Truman, by his record, shows that he understood the implications of these changes. To-day he is the Chief Executive of his nation as it approaches with its allies the victory for which his predecessor, in the words of a republican, "worked himself to death." From Roosevelt to Truman is a change that the world — and, it is certain, President Truman — had not expected to see. Yet America and the world will have confidence that this quiet man now called to the highest office will serve his country dutifully and loyally.

[illegible][illegible]

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THE TIMES

FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

Inflation rate reaches 2½-year high

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE headline rate of inflation rose to its highest for two and a half years in March, but the City remained hopeful that inflation will begin to fall this month thanks to the recent rises in interest rates.

The all-items retail price index rose 0.4 per cent in March, boosting the annual rate of inflation to 3.5 per cent from 3.4 per cent in February, its highest since October 1992. Underlying inflation — which excludes mortgage interest payments — also edged up, to an annual rate of 2.8 per cent from 2.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England's preferred measure of inflation, which strips out both mortgage interest and indirect taxes, rose to 1.9 per cent from 1.8 per cent, according to figures yesterday from the Central Statistical Office.

March's rise in all three measures of inflation suggests that there were genuine attempts by retailers to raise prices. Household goods rose by 1.5 per cent, the largest increase for any March since equivalent records began in 1956.

But there was also an impact from the continuing effect of higher excise duties imposed by the Government. Some analysts are expecting inflation to fall back again in April because the inflationary impact of tax changes in the 1994 Budget will be less than that of the previous one. The Central Statistical Office reckons budget effects alone will take 0.25 per cent off the retail price index in April. This is partly because the second tranche of VAT on fuel has been scrapped.

The implications of the current pattern of high street prices for the interest rate are unclear. Analysts argued that March's slightly higher than expected rise in prices adds marginally to the case for a rise in base rates at the next monetary meeting on May 5.

However, it is higher factory gate prices, which have been rising steadily as manufacturers respond to increased raw materials costs, coupled with sterling's weakness, which provide the main justification for higher base rates.

Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said that these price rises were inevitable. "The inevitability we have seen in the retail sector shows that wholesalers and retailers can no longer afford to absorb the rise in materials prices as they have been," he said. "Profit margins have been squeezed over the last year and that retailers are now having to pass on those costs."

However, the evidence suggests that consumers remain extremely price sensitive and that retailers are only having modest success in raising prices. Supermarkets, which were waging a fierce competitive war with deep price discounting, are continuing to discount but more selectively.

Yesterday also provided news of a disappointing trade deficit with the rest of the world in January. Although the deficit of £1.4 billion was smaller than the £1.64 billion deficit in December, it was much higher than the City had been expecting.

Analysts had been looking for a shortfall of about £800 million. December's large deficit had been regarded as an aberration because imports had been boosted by art works coming into the country for auction.

US retail sales rose by 0.2 per cent in March after a revised 1 per cent fall in February which had been the largest drop in any month since January 1994, according to the Commerce Department.

The news bolstered confidence in bond markets because a rise of only 0.2 per cent was interpreted as more evidence that the pace of the US recovery is slowing, easing inflationary pressures.

Blow for builders, page 22



Geoff Haslehurst, finance director, left, and Hugh Blakeway-Webb announced Laura Ashley's results yesterday

Restructure tips Laura Ashley to £30m loss

By Susan Gilchrist

THE aggressive restructuring programme imposed by the new management at Laura Ashley took its toll on profits as the group plunged deep into the red last year.

The company made a pre-tax loss of £30.6 million in the year to January 28 after absorbing £34.4 million of exceptional charges. This compares with a profit of £3 million during the previous year. The dividend has been passed.

Hugh Blakeway-Webb, who stepped up from non-executive to executive chairman after Jim Maxmin was ousted as chief executive last April, said: "This is tough action. It is going to hurt but it is necessary to return Laura Ashley to acceptable levels of profitability."

He said the restructuring measures, most of which were announced in February, were aimed at tackling the group's £44 million of central overheads. Two hundred management and administrative jobs are to go by next year, and up to 40 stores are to close, mainly in the United States.

The group's four head offices are also to be scaled back. The actions are expected to save £10 million a year.

The group also announced plans to rationalise its product range. "The purpose is to make sure we revert to our core products and drive up margins," Mr Blakeway-Webb said. Ranges such as food, swimwear and furniture are to be scrapped.

Tempus, page 24

Eaton says Chrysler is not for sale as profits slump

By Sean Mac Carthaigh and Eric Reguly

ROBERT EATON, the chairman of Chrysler, emphasised yesterday that the company is not for sale, but promised to evaluate the \$22.8 billion takeover offer from Kirk Kerkorian, the Las Vegas billionaire.

Separately, Chrysler, America's third-largest carmaker, reported a 37 per cent slump in earnings to \$92 million, or \$1.46 per share, in the first quarter of 1995. Turnover rose slightly to \$13.6 billion.

The profits, which were in line with analysts' expectations, included a \$115 million charge for the recall of its mini-van "people carriers".

The company also blamed higher material costs and lower sales in Mexico after the collapse of the peso.

Mr Eaton said: "Obviously, the board did and will consider any offer out there, but we have never been out shopping the company or wanted anyone to believe that there is, or ever will be, a for-sale sign on the front."

Most of Europe's large carmakers, meanwhile, said they had no interest in accepting Mr Kerkorian's invitation to back his bid. Fiat, the Italian vehicle maker that Chrysler courted in the late 1980s, Daimler-Benz, Volvo and Peugeot had been mentioned as the most likely candidates.

Analysts doubt that Mr Kerkorian's bid, at least in its present form, will succeed. Tracinda, the Las Vegas investment company he controls, has offered \$55 a share, or 40 per cent more than the

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2268.8	(-1.0)
Yield	4.25%	
FT-SE All share	1571.44	(+0.50)
Nikkei	16438.79	(+93.57)
New York	4210.50	(+12.79)
Dow Jones	508.94	(+1.77)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	103.3%	(103.4)
Yield	7.33%	(7.36%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6.75%	(5.75%)
Little long gilts	104%	(103.75%)
STERLING		
New York	1.6088	(1.6085)
London	1.6091	(1.6087)
DM	2.2353	(2.2348)
FF	7.8040	(7.7930)
Sfr	1.5450	(1.5443)
Yen	134.36	(133.52)
S index	84.4	(84.3)
DOLLAR		
London	1.3983	(1.4010)
DM	4.8513	(4.8763)
FF	1.1458	(1.1538)
Yen	83.51	(83.78)
S index	89.0	(88.8)
Tokyo close Yen 83.23		
NORTH AMER. DOL.		
Brent 15-day (Jul.)	517.80	(N/A)
GOLD		
London close	338.15	(338.01)
* denotes midday trading price		

Managers launch bid for Dewhurst

By George Sivell

MANAGERS of J H Dewhurst, Britain's largest butchers, are launching a bid for their company after the collapse of Union International, its parent, four weeks ago.

If successful, the bid could preserve more than 1,000 jobs at Dewhurst, the business from which the Vestey family made its vast fortune. It is understood the bid would be made at a price of £100 million, the day receivers were called.

Coopers & Lybrand, which is advising the Dewhurst managers, said yesterday that negotiations with the Union International receiver were continuing and that it hoped for a successful outcome. The managers say they have made a bid for most of the assets and trade of Dewhurst.

Roger Reeson, Dewhurst's operations manager, said: "Our bid will secure a future for the majority of shops nationally and preserve more than 1,000 jobs. This bid is good for our customers, good for our suppliers and good for our workforce."

Bugene Lines, the finance director, said: "Our bid represents value for the banking syndicate led by Lloyds and ensures the business is soundly financed and able to invest for the future."

If successful, the managers face a continuing battle on the high streets. At present, the chain of butchers' shops stands at 300, but competition from the big supermarkets has forced the closure of 450 Dewhurst shops and cost more than 1,000 jobs in the past three years. The supermarkets now have about half the meat market.

However, George Vestey, the marketing director, said: "We believe there is an exciting future for specialist high street retailers. We have a loyal customer base whose preference is to shop on the high street. We offer a high-quality product, which represents value for money for the consumer."

"We want to widen the appeal of our stores, offering pre-packaged and convenience products while continuing to provide a high level of personal service."

Union International called receivers in after bankers had threatened to withdraw borrowing facilities unless a receiver was appointed to Dewhurst. But Union believed that it could continue its strategy with Dewhurst in receivership, even though Union's debts would have then been reduced substantially.

No value was put on the Dewhurst chain last night. In total, the Union International business has been valued in the City at around the £100 million the banks are owed.

Paramount may join Channel 5 bid group

By Martin Waller

THE consortium, including Richard Branson's Virgin Communications, bidding for the Channel 5 franchise is in talks with Paramount, one of the biggest Hollywood studios, which is interested in joining the group.

The recruitment of Paramount, maker of the Oscar-winning *Forrest Gump* and a string of successful comedy series, would provide a significant source of film and television productions and an operator of a number of TV channels in the US, including the all-music channel MTV.

It would be a coup for the consortium, which as well as Virgin consists of Philips Electronics, the Dutch video recorder manufacturer, HTV, the TV broadcaster, City investment trust Electra and Associated Newspapers.

Virgin refused to confirm Paramount's possible involvement, although a spokesman said: "Discussions are going on with two or three further parties." Bids for Channel 5 are due at the Independent Broadcasting Commission by May 2. The Virgin consortium is the first to show its hand.

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Despondent Tapie puts yacht on the market

By Jon Ashworth

BERNARD TAPIE, the disgraced French politician-turned-businesman, has been forced to put his luxury yacht up for sale — days after losing his battle against personal bankruptcy.

The 74-metre Phocée, thought to be the largest private sailing yacht currently available, is on the market at £70 million, with Camper & Nicholsons, the broker that helped sell Robert Maxwell's yacht, *Lady Chasteline*. The four-masted schooner is moored in the South of France.

The flamboyant tycoon bought Phocée in 1980 with a view to using her for luxury cruises and major sailing events around the world. The yacht was totally refitted and overhauled in the mid-Eighties, and went on to spend much of her time in French Polynesia.

The yacht sleeps 20 guests in nine cabins, all with en suite bathrooms. In addition to a master cabin, which comes with its own Jacuzzi, and has direct access to a private office on the main deck. She carries a crew of 14. Things are not going well for M



Perfectly rigged: Phocée, Bernard Tapie's 73-metre luxury yacht, is for sale at a price of £70 million

Tapie. He was arrested in a dawn raid last summer and formally placed under investigation for fraud and tax evasion concerning the Phocée. It was alleged that he had run the yacht as a loss-making commercial venture in order to reduce his tax bill. He was subsequently ordered to repay £66.7 million to French customs.

Last November a court ordered M Tapie and his wife, Dominique, to pay £639 million to Crédit Lyonnais as a first step towards repaying personal debts estimated at £1.2 billion. It was speculated that the move would trigger a series of asset sales involving the yacht, a mansion in Paris, and a collection of antiques and paintings. M Tapie was declared bankrupt in December, and

lost his appeal against the proceedings late last month.

He shot to prominence in the Eighties with a string of high-profile acquisitions, including that of Adidas, the German sporting goods group. He entered politics, cashing in on his popularity as owner of Marseille football club, but came under increasing pressure in the wake of a match-rigging scandal involving Marseille and Valenciennes, a northern French team. Marseille officials allegedly used backhanders to encourage the rival players "not to play too hard" against them, hence helping them through to the European Cup final with Milan.

M Tapie went on trial in connection with the match-rigging allegations last month, and is currently awaiting the outcome. Judgment is due on May 15. He expressed his anguish during the closing session of court, saying: "I am fed up, finished, ruined. This affair has effectively annihilated me politically and professionally."

Pennington, page 23

□ French dirigisme has its limits □ PFI delays are contributing to downturn □ Tapie joins the all-at-sea club

Reality meets Bull

□ MACHINES: BULL exemplifies the best and the worst of France's industrial policy. Its taxpayers have doggedly suffered huge losses — roughly £2,800 million over the past five years alone — and kept investing in the dream of a world-class French computer champion. To a limited extent they have achieved that ambition from unpromising beginnings and against the odds of American and Japanese dominance. Sales run at £5.6 billion worldwide and Bull has a presence in many key parts of the computer market. It still employs nearly 28,000 people in high-technology manufacturing and services after the latest round of cuts.

After all that effort, however, Bull is still not capable of standing on its own two hind feet. Jean-Marie Descarpentries, the chairman, and less-than-heroic veteran of CarmauxMetal Box, has forecast a rare net profit in 1995. But when the European Commission demanded that the state subsidise Bull, to prove that the latest 'huge' state subsidy

really was the last, it was swiftly clear that this meant bringing in more successful partners.

Even so, France is doing it the French way. Had it offered Bull for sale, there might have been more interest. AT&T, which would have liked to take over, was warned off by being refused a future telecoms licence. Instead, the French Government has sought competing and balancing minority investors, primarily among companies that already find it useful to have technical partnerships with Bull inside the European Union. The aim is to keep Bull independent and under French control, even if most shares end up being held by foreigners.

This strategy might work, with a privatised France Telecom eventually deciding control. The effect may still may be no better

than the opposite British approach. Control of ICL was sold to Fujitsu because British investors could not be bothered to put up risk money for research, even though ICL was reasonably and consistently profitable. Nowadays, ICL employs around 20,000 and is much more successful than Bull. It does not obviously contribute less to Britain by being under Japanese financial and technical control. Only the *gloire* is lacking.

Builders losing the initiative

□ BUILDERS are like farmers — nothing is ever quite right for them. It is either too dry or too rainy; the building industry is either starved of orders or is overheating and ravaged with

PENNINGTON



skills shortages. But the latest trade survey from the Building Employers Confederation, while easily as gloomy as the past 99, contains an element of clear truth, and not only because it repeats in anecdotal form a fact made plain from hard Department of the Environment figures two days previously.

The builders say that the first quarter of this year showed a sharp, 41 per cent downturn by

one measure in the public non-housing sector, which covers roads and other infrastructure — in other words, just the sort of jobs that should be covered by the Government's much-vaunted Private Finance Initiative.

The DOE figures show that infrastructure orders in the three months December to February fell year-on-year by 45 per cent. The comparison only makes explicit a complaint that has come from the majority of the buildings and building materials producers over the recent reporting season, that their workload fell off a cliff just after the Government last beefed up its PFI policy last autumn.

The implication is that the Government turned off the tap. The BEC claims its members say delays arising from the PFI are a contributory factor. The logistics

are obviously stacked against private finance, in that any scheme that needs capital as well will take longer. If the PFI takes off, the log jam will be temporary. That is a big if, and there are a few cash-strapped contractors who may not ride out the delay.

Abandon yacht, ye captains of industry

□ THE curse of the luxury yacht, a virulent voodoo among the rich and famous, has struck again. Poor old Bernard Tapie has been forced to sell up his beloved *Phoebe*, to repay a small matter of 67 million francs to the French customs.

He is but the latest in a procession of high-flying financiers who were suddenly sunk after they heard the call of the

ocean wild. Gerald Ronson saw his vessel sail off to the highest bidder when he hit hard times. Alan Bond must regret the day he won the America's Cup for his country; it was the start of a long and painful decline.

The luxury yacht is a potent warning to investors to stay away. Just as fountains in lobbies, executive jets and company helicopters are signs that something is going wrong inside a company, the fact that a businessman owns a £10 million yacht should give the world a hint that he is doing rather better than are his shareholders.

However, unlike other symbols, the luxury yacht can become the very agent of its owner's doom. Tapie's legal difficulties stemmed from allegation that he ran the yacht as a loss-making business to lighten his tax load. For Robert Maxwell, *Lady Ghislaine* was the last stop to a watery grave in the Atlantic. There is only one lesson in these cautionary tales. Company chiefs should keep their feet firmly on the ground.



Uniting over Erskine for a market assault. David McErlean, of SBG, and Ian Crabb, Alco UK's managing director

Alco outbids British rivals in SBG battle

By MARTIN BARROW

ALCO Standard Corporation, the American distribution and services company, has outbid two British rivals in the battle for control of Southern Business Group, the supplier of photocopiers and vending machines.

Alco's £81.1 million bid for SBG prompted Berkeley Business Group to withdraw from the fray, and a third suitor, Danka Business Systems, is expected to follow suit.

Alco, whose offer is worth 84p a share in cash, proposes to merge SBG with its Erskine House operation, based around another British supplier of office equipment that was acquired in 1993. The terms are endorsed by the SBG board and irrevocable undertakings have been received in

respect of interests held by trusts, amounting to 13.93 per cent of the company's ordinary shares.

The offer represents a premium of 20 per cent over the 70p a share cash offer from Danka, announced on March 24, and is 21 per cent above Berkeley's offer of cash and shares. It also represents a premium of 62 per cent over the middle market price of SBG shares on February 15, the last dealing day before abnormal share price movements obliged SBG to reveal that the board was in discussions that might lead to an offer for the company.

Berkeley, the company headed by Alan Baldwin, said it was allowing its offer to lapse, having secured accep-

ances in respect of only 22.7 per cent by the second closing date. Berkeley shares rose 7p to 56p in response.

Erskine House, whose turnover has increased by 30 per cent since the takeover, and SBG will operate as independent companies. Alco said organic growth at SBG would take place as rapidly as possible as it sought to increase its share of the market, particularly in the South East.

John Stuart, Alco's president and chief executive, said Southern "will be an excellent strategic fit with our UK business and we expect it to grow significantly along with our existing operations."

SBG, whose chief executive is David McErlean, suffered a decline in taxable profits to 2

million in 1994 from £12.2 million on turnover of £53.5 million, compared with £57.7 million previously. Shareholders' funds at the end of September 1994 were £62.7 million. The company is a leading regional supplier of Canon photocopiers.

Under Alco's ownership, Erskine has grown through the acquisition of Aztec (South West) last August and Britannia Office Equipment earlier this month. Combined revenues of the group are expected to exceed £65 million in the current year.

Group profits at Alco have risen to £274 million before tax in 1994 from £200 million in 1993 and £173 million in 1992.

Tempos, page 24

Power firm rebuked for early bills

By MARTIN WALLER

THE electricity industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild, has administered a sharp rap over the knuckles for the biggest of the 12 regional electricity companies for charging its customers for power they had yet to receive.

The news that Eastern Group, which serves the East Anglia area and has 3 million customers, had decided to create a "free week" to cope with a temporary reprogramming of its head office computers by sending out bills early caused a storm when it broke earlier this year.

Professor Littlechild said the bills were not in accordance with the company's obligations, and he emphasised that it should not profit from the affair. Eastern has now agreed to ensure that customers who received their bills early will be billed late in the current quarter, to cancel out any additional cost to them. Eastern said it had not sought to profit from the early bills.

BP's chairman defends executive reward scheme

By CARL MORTIMER

LORD ASHBURTON, chairman of BP, defended the oil company's executive pay arrangements at its annual meeting yesterday. Shareholders were told that the company had scrapped executive share options in favour of a three-year rolling performance plan in which senior managers would personally pay for a proportion of the shares allocated under the plan.

BP's Long-Term Performance Plan, available to 80 senior managers, including board directors, awards national amounts of shares to participants, but the stock is received only if the company achieves targets based on a ranking of BP's performance measured against other top international oil companies.

The chairman said: "It requires a significant up-front commitment from senior staff." BP retains executive share options for middle managers and it issued 26.7 million shares to employees last year under various option schemes. This contrasts with the rival

oil company Shell, which does not issue new shares under its employee share schemes. Shell's 1994 accounts indicate that, at the end of last year, it was holding stock costing £46 million in respect of employee share schemes. Lack of disclosure of the full cost to shareholders of issuing new stock to employees has been criticised by accountancy experts.

David Simon, BP chief executive and a member of the Greenbury Committee on executive pay, told shareholders that the company had cut its debts by \$6 billion over 2½ years. "Within the next two years, we shall aim to cut it by a further \$2 billion and then I shall be confident that it has reached a more satisfactory and competitive level," he said.

BP aimed to cut debt to \$8 billion over two years, he said. Under BP's new performance plan, executives, when granted shares, must hold them for three years before disposal.

Tempos, page 24

Directors quit over airport deal

By OUR CITY STAFF

NATIONAL EXPRESS has bought a long leasehold on Bournemouth Airport for £7.2 million. But hours before the deal all six of the airport's non-executive directors resigned from the board, claiming that the council-owned asset was undervalued by £5 million.

Quitting the board, Rob Wotton, the chairman, said: "We did not want to sell the airport short, so we all resigned."

However, the airport joint shareholders' chairman John Lofe said National Express, which also owns East Midlands Airport, paid a fair price for the 999-year lease which reflected the market value.

He said: "The value of the airport is £7.2 million. It went out to international tender and competitive bidding and was sold to the best bid."

The freehold will be retained by the joint owners Bournemouth and Dorset councils and one condition of the lease is that it should be retained as an operational airport.

Gaumont cinemas for Disney site

By MARTIN BARROW

EURO DISNEY has teamed up with Gaumont, France's oldest cinema company, to open a multi-screen complex at the entrance to the Paris theme park by the end of next year. The costs, details of which were not disclosed, will be borne entirely by Gaumont.

The multiplex will initially consist of eight theatres with a capacity of more than 2,000. It will boast a giant screen similar to Gaumont's new Grand Ecran at the Place d'Italie in Paris, with seating for 700 people.

Euro Disney said that the cinema, to be built beside the inter-urban train station serving its theme park, 20 miles east of Paris, would be a welcome new attraction for visitors. The company has been hit by relentless losses since its park opened in 1992 as a result of disappointing attendance figures.

Gaumont and Walt Disney, Euro Disney's parent, already co-operate in the distribution of their respective films in France. Created in 1993, their Gaumont Vista International venture scored in 1993 with the French feature film *Les Visiteurs* and last year had success with the animated feature film *The Lion King*. Gaumont has 250 cinemas in France.

Tax charges cut NatWest profits surge in America

By PATRICIA TEHAN

NATWEST Bancorp, NatWest's US subsidiary, lifted its pre-tax profits by 47 per cent in the first quarter of the year to \$102.4 million. Net profits fell by 11.3 per cent to \$55.5 million, however, as the bank has used up tax benefits that have flattered profits in the past three years.

The federal tax provision for the first quarter of this year was \$38.7 million, compared with zero in the same period last year.

The figures include the first-time contribution of Citizens First Bancorp, which NatWest

Bancorp acquired last October, and Central Jersey Bancorp, which it bought in January.

There is also a \$10 million charge for the cost of cutting 500 jobs, or 5.8 per cent of its workforce, and a \$10 million charge for restructuring NatWest Services, the bank's servicing centre in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

HSBC's US arm, Marine Midland Bank, is to pay \$9.3 million for United Northern Federal Savings Bank, the New York residential lender and savings bank founded in

1887. United Northern has about \$85 million in assets and two branches, in Watertown and Lowell, New York state.

The branches will be taken over by Marine Midland and its mortgage lending and services business will be managed by Marine Midland's Spectrum Home Mortgage division.

Jim Cleave, Marine Midland's president and chief executive, said the acquisition would expand the bank's activities, particularly mortgage lending, in northern New York.

Granada buys Pavilion



Robinson: logical expansion

PAVILION Services is to be bought for £125 million by Granada Group. Gerry Robinson's TV-to-catering business (Martin Waller writes).

Pavilion, the former vehicle of Michael Guthrie and operator of nine roadside service stations, abandoned plans for a market flotation earlier this year and put itself on the market. Mr Guthrie, the former boss of Mecca Leisure, stood down at Pavilion last month to concentrate on his BrightReasons pizza and pasta restaurants group.

Granada, owner of two in-

dependent TV franchises, has about 30 service stations of its own and has made no secret of its wish to expand. The group is paying £76.3 million in cash, coming out of existing banking facilities, and assuming debt of £48.7 million.

Mr Robinson, the chief executive, said Pavilion was an immediate logical expansion and a good fit with Granada's existing business. In the latest financial year, Pavilion made operating profits of £10.2 million on sales of £122 million. Net assets were £46 million.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Legless in a good cause

MARK ROGERS, a UK equity salesman at SG Warburg, travelled home to Colchester by train last night, dishevelled and somewhat exposed. At the office yesterday he had his legs cut off and his posteriors exposed. I hasten to add that it was his trousers legs that were hacked and shredded, all in aid of charity. Some years back, Rogers purchased a suit in a Prince of Wales check, but when he first wore it, colleagues sniggered "Going racing?" and he never had the nerve to wear it again. But yesterday, rising to a £25 dare, he did wear it. The rest of the office sniggered, and he demanded the privilege of seeing Wendy Edwards and Vanessa Yeo cut his awful suit to shreds. "Pay for the privilege," Rogers said. It was a condition of paying up that Rogers travel home in his reduced state, but his shredding raised £6,000, which goes to Save the Children and the Downs Syndrome Association.

White knight

PROBABLY still catching his breath after taking over Baring's, Auld Jacobs, executive board chairman of ING, was this week created a Knight of the Order of the Lion of The Netherlands, for merits to his industry. His office says the honour "had nothing to do with Baring's".

BOOSEY & HAWKES, the Regent Street music shop, has an inspired, lyrical name for its Edgware factory, where its instruments are made: *Sonorous Works*. Any other company name to match this for commercial appeal? Headed company name, please.



Showing its age

AUSTRALIA'S national airline, Qantas, in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, can hardly be accused of going over the top with taxpayers' money ahead of its proposed privatisation this summer. Either that or they've got a strange way of letting their hair down. On Monday Qantas will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of its very first overseas passenger flight, which was from Brisbane to Singapore. To mark the occasion, passengers on flight QF51 from Brisbane to Singapore will be treated to no champagne and caviar, but models of Qantas aircraft then and now. They certainly know how to throw a party!

France agog

CORPORATE France is holding its breath ahead of a ruling today by the Paris Appeal Court which will have wide implications for the business community. On March 10, a French magistrate imposed judicial control on Pierre Suard, chairman of Alcatel Alsthom, the diversified conglomerate, in connection with an alleged fraud. This effectively prevents him from carrying out his chief executive duties. Corporate France felt the ruling, against which Suard has appealed, was unprecedented and shocking. Watch this space.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Star trekkers for Captain Kirk: Chrysler's cars, considered the hottest rolling stock on the US market, would come under Kerkorian's control



America's favourite seeks to repel the enemy at the door

America's most profitable car maker, Chrysler, is under siege. Kirk Kerkorian, a septuagenarian rider from Las Vegas, has put one of the largest corporations in the world into play.

The prospects are ominous. Mr Kerkorian's \$23 billion bid proposal would saddle Chrysler with \$10 billion dollars of debt, and probably lead to the departure of a management team that has brought the company back from the brink of bankruptcy and pointed it for global expansion.

Building a long-term position in the world's most competitive industry takes long-term commitment. Building cars is a vocation. While Mr Kerkorian may be a brilliant investor, he knows little of the car industry. Little wonder that Robert Eaton, Chrysler's chief executive, and his board have vowed to fight off the takeover attempt.

Mr Kerkorian buys companies in order to sell them, in whole or in parts, as he did, notoriously, with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the Hollywood studio.

He cannot have no interest or understanding of the products themselves: he once suggested that Eddie Murphy should replace Roger Moore as the new James Bond.

Would Mr Kerkorian treat Chrysler any differently? The company has its weak spots — its foreign presence, for example, is puny — but it is otherwise firing on all cylinders.

Even though it is the smallest of the big three American car makers, it is the most profitable, earning a record \$3.7 billion in 1994. Its debt-to-equity ratio, although not as low as Ford's, is much smaller than that of General Motors and analysts expect it to report rising earnings over the next two years.

Chrysler's portfolio of cars, notably the "people carriers", Jeeps and LH cars, are considered the hottest rolling stock on the US market. According to one analyst: "No one wants this company to be saddled with debt or taken apart: a whole lot of people, including the US Government, worked hard to keep it together."

Indeed, it is only in the past couple of years that Chrysler has become solid. Formed in 1925 by Walter P. Chrysler, a Kansas-born railway man, the company had its heyday in the Twenties, Thirties and Forties.

In the 1960s, it began to drift and a decade later, it was in the red. When Lee Iacocca was dismissed from Ford in 1978

Eric Reguly and Ross Tieman say Chrysler has weak spots but is still firing on all cylinders. Kirk Kerkorian can only bring a wake-up call with his bid proposals

and landed at Chrysler, the company was on the verge of bankruptcy. Mr Iacocca slashed costs, but Chrysler could make no headway in the face of Japanese competition. So Mr Iacocca went begging. In late 1979, Congress passed the Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, which provided Chrysler with \$1.5 billion of loan guarantees.

By 1983, Chrysler had launched a new generation of small cars, known as the K-cars, and was able to repay the loan guarantees. In the same year, it introduced the "mini-van", the "people carrier" that later inspired the Renault Espace. This created an entirely new market and remains Chrysler's best-selling product. Some 4.5 million have been sold.

By the late Eighties, the company was in trouble again. Japanese competition was relentless. Ford had revived itself with its bean-shaped Taurus saloon and Chrysler's own K-cars were creaking with age.

In 1991, it was a bankruptcy candidate again. But Chrysler hung on, gambling that its next generation of cars, known as the LH series, would pull it back from the abyss. The automotive press half-jokingly said LH stood for "last hope".

The LH cars, introduced in 1992 as the Chrysler Concorde, Dodge Intrepid and Eagle Vision, borrowed Japanese development techniques but took them one step further. Chrysler used a "platform" approach, in which a dedicated

team of designers and technicians worked on one model, and only that model, from start to finish. In the past, the engineer in charge of heating controls, for example, would design controls for several different cars simultaneously instead of concentrating on a specific instrument for a specific car.

The LH team comprised 800 workers who developed the LH range in 39 months, a luncheon by North American standards. The cars have become tremendously popular. Their "cab-forward" design, which pushes the wheels

to the extreme corners of the body, lengthening the wheelbase and enlarging the interior, is being copied everywhere.

Arvid Joupit, an analyst with Keane Securities in Detroit, thinks Chrysler shareholders would rather fight than switch to Mr Kerkorian. "Chrysler has a large body of loyal owners who believe Chrysler's engineering is the best in the world," he said.

But in a globalising automotive industry, Chrysler's recovery, although remarkable, was built exclusively in the Ameri-

can market. While Americans buy a lot of cars, they lose confidence in their economic prospects from time to time and defer their purchases. For the best part of a century, Ford and General Motors have balanced US market downturns by building and selling cars in Europe, where economic cycles tend to lag behind those of the US.

In an effort to acquire this balance, Chrysler bought United Kingdom manufacturing and distribution in 1968 in the form of the Rootes Group. The company was bolted together with Talbot in France. However, the venture was not a success: in 1979, Chrysler sold off its entire European operation to Peugeot Citroën of France for \$1.

If Chrysler is not to be dragged down once more by the American slowdown, it has to exploit its investments in technology worldwide. Mr Joupit said: "Chrysler has a world name and a world reputation, but it doesn't have a world presence. I think they could build up that foreign presence properly."

Mr Eaton, the Colorado-born engineer who took the helm at Chrysler in 1992, set out from day one to move back into Europe.

Over the past three years, the company has advanced to a 1 per cent plus share of the 11.9 million cars sold in Europe last year. This has been achieved by selling explicitly exotic products: Jeeps and the Voyager "people carrier". In the space of just two years, Jeep has become the third-best selling 4x4 in Brit-

ain. To cut costs, many of the vehicles are assembled in Austria under a joint venture arrangement with Steyr-Daimler-Puch. Until sales of each model top 100,000 a year, there seems little point in building a dedicated manufacturing plant.

Besides — exotics aside — American vehicles still have little appeal for European customers, in spite of improving quality and price-competitiveness. Chrysler's Neon saloon, launched on the Continent last year, was poorly received.

Building a substantial European leg without a partner on the continent could take Chrysler decades. The Japanese did it on the back of superior production management when European manufacturers were weak. That opportunity has gone, because the European industry is world class once more.

In the late 1980s, Mr Iacocca discussed collaboration with Fiat of Italy and VW of Germany, to no avail. Fiat, VW, Mercedes-Benz, Renault and Peugeot all said yesterday that they were not interested in developing a partnership with Chrysler. Not this year, perhaps. But Peugeot, for one, is keen to re-enter the United States. A reciprocal deal, providing access to dealer networks could yet emerge.

But Europe is no longer the only counterbalance available. Asian countries are building motorways and trunk roads at a remarkable rate. Manufacturers from around the globe are racing to build vehicles to fill them. Chrysler is now in with the pack, developing Jeep assembly plants in China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Opportunities for collaboration exist here too, with Malaysian and Korean manufacturing newcomers who may be only too happy to share low-cost production expertise and technology. But entering such alliances is easier from a position of strength.

Mr Kerkorian's pressure may spur the company into a defensive alliance with another automotive group. But is that really necessary? In recent years, Chrysler has shown an astonishing capacity to learn, adapt and thrive. It is smart enough to know itself that its biggest growth potential lies in foreign markets.

Chrysler's biggest problem, however, is one of stock market perception. It is undervalued. Mr Kerkorian has been smart enough to notice. This wake-up call to investors is all he can bring to the company.

Film-makers Down Under cast in the starring role

Australasian cinema has been boosted by government funding, says Rachel Bridge

A hard-hitting drama about New Zealand family life makes its debut in British cinemas today in what marks another triumph for the film-makers from Down Under.

Arriving complete with considerable critical acclaim, *Once Were Warriors*, along with the latest Australian offering *Muriel's Wedding*, shows just how far the two countries have progressed in the film world in recent years.

British enthusiasm for Australian and New Zealand films such as *Strictly Ballroom* and *The Piano* — and more recently *The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* and *Heavenly Creatures* — has done much to propel them into the commercial big time.

Priscilla, for example, has already taken well over £1 million at the box office in the UK since its release six months ago, while *The Piano* has chalked up more than £3 million in UK box office receipts.

The new batch of films are a far cry from the big-budget film *Crocodile Dundee*, which played upon stereotypical images of Australia.

Cathy Robinson, chief executive of the Australian Film Commission, says: "We've learnt to speak with our own voice. The stories are not hugely different, but it is the way we tell them that interests people."

What we offer is a kind of freshness and a vitality. Success has led to a stream of American film distributors keen to do business. Ms Robinson says: "There's no question that, internationally, people are looking to Australia for films with commercial appeal. They are not only interested in buying the completed product, they are also interested in putting money on the table to assist in production."

It has also sent a tremendous surge of optimism through the industry. Independent film-maker Liz Hughes, who has written and directed four short films, including the award-winning *Car's Cradle*, says: "There is a lot of confidence in the industry at the moment, partly due to the recent successes of Australian films. There is a good climate for film-makers here."

In sharp contrast to the UK, much of the credit must go to the Australian and New Zealand Governments for their willingness to foot the bill.

Ms Robinson says: "We wouldn't have an industry without government assistance. What's happening now is a culmination of 25

years of investment." The figures would make British film-makers weep. The Australian Film Finance Corporation, which provides finance for the more commercial films, receives A\$50 million (£23 million) a year — over half its total budget — from the Government. The Australian Film Commission, which funds smaller projects, gets a further A\$20 million.

Greg Smith, director of the New South Wales Film and Television Office, says: "At the end of the day, it is talent that counts but government funding has been very important."

There has been a lot of money, a lot of support and a lot of training put into the industry, and as a result, we are now generating on an annual basis films which are of a high quality. The UK film industry has lost a lot of opportunities by not having a more supportive government."

Across the Tasman Sea, the story is the same. The New Zealand Film Commission will receive nearly two thirds of its NZ\$12.5 million (£5.2 million) budget this

year from State Lottery profits, and a further 7 per cent from taxation revenue.

Lindsay Shelton, the Commission's marketing director, points out that in the 15 years before the Commission was set up in 1978, New Zealand made just 11 feature films. In the 15 years after its creation, more than 90 were made.

He, too, has found distributors starting to take him seriously in the light of successes such as *Heavenly Creatures*, which received an Academy Award nomination. Mr Shelton says: "Slowly we are starting to build up a reputation. Each time we hit a peak, it's a higher peak."

Spurred on by the international success of its films, Australia has, meanwhile, begun marketing its production skills to overseas film-makers and for the past three years, Australia, the Australian Trade Commission, has been arranging trips for international studio heavyweights to show them what Australia can offer. Its efforts are paying off — the programme already attracts around A\$40-50 million worth of business each year.

The man in charge of the project, John Robertson, says: "It's been one of our most successful programmes. The industry has been on a bit of a roll and successes like *Muriel's Wedding* and *Priscilla* certainly have not hurt. It is raising the profile of Australia as a major player in the industry."



Terence Stamp in *Priscilla*



Lee Iacocca, left, now an investor with Kerkorian, and Chrysler chief Robert Eaton

Eric Reguly on the prospects of Germany's telecoms sector opening up

BT and C&W wait for a clearer line from Bonn

WOLFGANG BÖTSCH, Germany's Post and Telecommunications Minister, has been telling the world that the walls protecting his country's telecoms sector are collapsing. He was recently in Washington to spread the word that licences to compete with Deutsche Telekom, which loses its monopoly in 1998, will be awarded freely. Germany, like Britain, which was Europe's first deregulated market, could end up with hundreds of competitors. "I have in mind to make it quite clear that we do not have a fortress in Europe; we do not have a fortress in Germany," he said.

Two foreign companies that hope to be among the first to pry open the German telecoms market, British Telecom and Cable & Wireless, do not share Herr Bötsch's exuberance. Licences may be handed out at random, they note, but there's a good chance that the regulatory regime will

continue to work in Deutsche Telekom's favour.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, was quick off the mark when the Bonn Government announced it would not be stingy with licences. "There is very little, if any, sign of early movement in the two largest markets in continental Europe despite the encouraging words from Bonn," he said. "We have to ask whether there is a place in this competitive marketplace for companies or alliances who continue to enjoy protected status in their home markets."

While Mercury Communications may sneer at BT's concerns about ensuring a level regulatory playing field — Mercury is the only phone company that has to pay BT a fee to maintain its fixed network — the issue must be resolved before BT and C&W make a commitment to Europe, their next

frontier. Hundreds of millions of pounds of investment are at stake. Stephen Pettit, C&W's managing director for Europe, said he has no doubt that Deutsche Telekom and the German authorities will put up a fight. "It's a natural thing to make life hard for the competition," he said.

At the moment, none of Deutsche Telekom's potential rivals has any idea what the regulatory regime will look like. They do not know what restrictions will be imposed on the construction of their own networks or, more importantly, what Deutsche Telekom will charge them to connect calls to its network. They do not know whether its charges for leased lines will be fair because they do not have access to Deutsche Telekom's accounting. Until they do, they will not be able to determine whether the company is subsidising losses from one service by diverting profits from

another. "Deutsche Telekom's leased line prices are very high," said Mr Pettit. "They could be making a huge profit from them or a huge loss, we simply don't know."

BT and C&W are putting pressure on the European Union's competition watchdogs, Germany's Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and Deutsche Telekom, to agree to a regulatory framework within the next year-and-a-half or so. Once it takes shape, the foreign upstarts can develop plans for the post-1998 free-for-all. BT and C&W know they cannot get over the regulatory hurdles alone. Their new industrial partners in Germany, Viag and Veba, respectively, are their main lobbyists.

Germany's regulatory regime is not the only potential barrier to open competition. The other is Atlas, the new joint venture between Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom that plans to offer data links and

private networks to corporate customers in Europe and around the world. The two companies hope to buy a 20 per cent stake in Sprint, America's third largest overseas carrier, to extend Atlas's reach.

BT and C&W are worried that Atlas is an attempt to lock up business customers, their prime targets in Germany and France, before 1998. BT has filed a complaint to that effect with the EU's competition commission.

Brussels has noted their concerns. The competition commission, headed by Karel Van Miert, is reviewing Atlas to determine whether it contravenes competition policy. Larry Stone, BT's head of regulatory affairs in Brussels, said Atlas could evolve into a cartel. "There would be no incentive for France Telecom or Deutsche Telekom to compete in their own markets if they join their networks together," he said.

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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David Hewson offers a guide to the hidden jokes that may be lurking inside your computer

How to crack an egg

Easter is always with the personal computer user. The software and computers we use every day are riddled with what the industry calls "Easter eggs" — programmers' jokes built into hardware and applications and visible only through an arcane series of key clicks.

One of the most notorious Easter eggs was in a now-obsolete software package from Borland. Get the key combination right and you could listen to a brief snatch of digitised jazz played by Philippe Kahn, at that time the music-loving chairman of the company.

Mr Kahn's insertion of his sax-playing into a piece of desktop software did not go down well with users who failed to understand why they were paying for extra hard disk space to accommodate his musical abilities.

Today, when 500 megabyte hard disks are common and an office software suite might take up a fifth of this on installation alone, the possibilities for Easter eggs are much more exciting.

The most common egg of all is a simple cast list of the programmers who worked on the application. You can often find these just by pulling down the "About" box of an application while holding down a combination of the Control, Alt and Shift keys.

The Apple Macintosh is a rich source of eggs, many of them beginning within the company itself. Anyone who opens the system file with a

word processor will find a message from a bunch of programmers complaining of being held prisoner in a system software factory.

One of the common anti-virus programs for the Mac, Disinfectant, is not above a few jokes either. Pull down the About menu, wait for a few seconds, and a list of viruses will appear to the accompaniment of the theme tune from *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Eventually they are squashed by a giant foot to the sound of a long raspberry. All this is watched by a grinning black and white photograph of the programmer.

If you open the Macintosh's Sound Manager control panel, then click on an audio option while holding down the control key, a loud roar — doubtless from the programmer — is followed by an obscure quotation from Carl Jung.

The world of Windows is full of eggs, too, and few applications seem to come out of Microsoft's Redmond headquarters without an oddity or two buried in the works. In Microsoft Word 6.0, for example, you can get a cast list by typing "T31", making it bold, autoformatting it, choosing "About Microsoft Word" from the Help menu and then clicking on the flying icon. This is a lot of work for a mere cast list but the reward — if you deem it such — is that your own name will eventually appear on screen alongside everyone else on the Word team.

Windows 3.1 has one of the



Philippe Kahn plays jazz deep within a Borland package

best hidden Easter eggs of all. You get this by selecting "Help, About Program Manager" three times while in Program Manager and hold-

ing down the control and shift keys throughout. On the first time, click on the dotted left hand part of the Windows flag logo — and

nothing happens, so click OK to close the box. Immediately open the same box and repeat the action — a flying flag appears. Click OK, close the box, open it again and then click on one of the four solid rectangles in the Windows flag then release the control and shift keys.

A cartoon head introduces the Windows team by their e-mail address and if you know the general Internet address for Microsoft you can use

A list of viruses appears to the theme from Monty Python's Flying Circus

this to send them messages directly.

The head changes depending on which of the four squares you click — one is meant to be Bill Gates, another a teddy bear. This is such an obscure Easter egg that you wonder how on earth anyone discovered it. Presumably by accident. Or are there real people out there trying to track down new eggs? Don't think for a moment of joining them. Do what the rest of us do: Loiter in the odd corners of online networks and pick up the latest Easter egg lists there without the pain of having to find them in the first place.

Gloves come off in battle over PCs

more for the same price, rather than the same for less. The TV model costs £1,750.

While the introduction of new models so quickly is a sign of fierce competition in the sale of PCs, the fight between manufacturers could become dirty. This week Compaq filed a lawsuit in the United States against one of its fiercest competitors, Packard Bell.

Compaq claims that Packard Bell is misleading the public by selling as new computers that contain used components. Compaq alleges that Packard Bell takes apart many of its returned goods, and then uses these parts again.

Packard Bell says the lawsuit is completely without merit and is designed purely to stall its sales growth. Last November, Compaq sued Packard Bell for patent infringement. That lawsuit is still pending.

Packard Bell has become an important rival to Compaq in the past year. In 1994, it was among the fastest-growing PC makers in the retail consumer sector.

MATTHEW MAY

Boy makes bomb from Internet recipe

IT APPEARS that the Americans are to do nothing about the appearance on the Internet of a recipe for making napalm. A teenage boy recently constructed a bomb using the recipe.

Last week, the father of the boy, from Missouri, gave police a crude napalm bomb fashioned from gunpowder, petrol and styrofoam chips.

The FBI says that the bomb-making information is protected under free speech laws and that it only investigates the online publication of obscene material such as child pornography.

Code change

IT IS JUST two days until Britain's telephone numbers become a digit longer. From Sunday, a 1 must be

added after the initial 0 of all British area codes.

Have you changed numbers stored in a telephone memory? Have you changed any numbers stored in a mobile phone?

And have you changed any phone numbers stored on your PC? If you use a modem, remember to change phone numbers that may be dialled automatically from software.

Late chip
ADVANCED Micro Devices says that its K-5 chip, which it developed to compete with Intel's powerful Pentium chip, will not be generally available until early next year.

The company had been saying for months that the K-5 would be available for export this summer. Nor will it attempt to produce K-5s this year for Compaq Computers, which it already supplies with clones of Intel's 486 chips.

Launch is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt@timesonline.com

Switched off

THE quest for a common European power plug and socket has suffered a setback. A proposal to introduce a standard plug with two or three round pins to allow appliances to be used across Europe, without adaptors, has been rejected.

The British Electro-technical Committee said it feared the proposal was unsafe because it did not include common standards for "enclosures" — the fixtures in the wall to which the sockets are attached.

Prize cheat

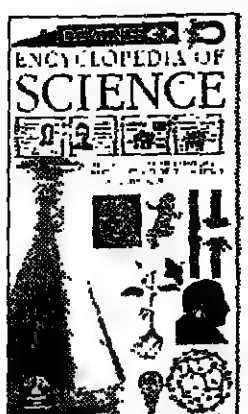
A COMPUTER hacker in California who blocked radio station phone lines so that he could win contests has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Kevin Lee Puskas, 29, a

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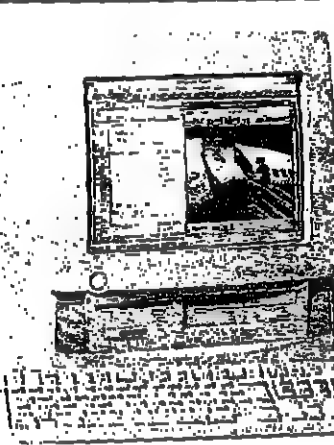


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One of the new Compaq PCs

Compaq is keeping up the pressure on its competitors, with eight new multimedia PCs having just gone into the shops barely six months after the last set.

Like earlier versions, all are multimedia and come with a CD-Rom drive, answerphone and fax software. All but one of the new models come with eight, rather than four megabytes of memory, and there is now a model on which you can watch TV on the whole screen, or reduce the size so broadcasts appear as a "window" while you use the computer for other things.

The cheapest model is down in price by a £100 to £1,300, although most of the new models follow the practice common in the PC industry of offering

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POP 1

The stellar cast of *Encomium* only show that it is hard to improve on a Led Zeppelin original



POP 2

Charging through the battered old stanzas of his own ancient history, Bob Dylan goes unplugged on disc

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

You've hitched up the caravan for the hols: now what do you put on the car stereo?



POP 4

If you want well-behaved rock-country with a raised eyebrow, Jimmy Nail's your man

It's easy to trace the tracks of my tyres

Hitch the caravan to the old banger this hols weekend, slot this killer compilation into the stereo — and suffer

Caravanning! It's Easter holiday time, which can only mean one thing — caravanning! Hitting the open road with a catering-sized box of baked beans and three tin openers — "Just in case" — you'll be wanting to make up the ideal compilation tape to help suck the miles under your wheels. As compilation tapes are more vital to a driving holiday than having a car, please allow me to help you in this life-or-death task. This is how things should pan out:

Tape 1 Side 1
YOU love everyone. It appears to be sunny. You're pretending your old Vauxhall Viva is a pink convertible with the legend "Coh Ash Cantona" emblazoned on the side in green, luminous paint. You're Thelma and Louise — except one of you is a man and the other isn't.

Geena Davis, by any stretch of the imagination. Still. Start off with *Renegade Soundwave's Renegade Soundwave*, a bass-heavy tale of coming back from a party and, um, listening to some loud music.

You will play this at top volume, to test at which level the stereo distorts and starts interfering with the engine, and to let your next-door neighbours know you're left. Follow this with *Maschine's Street Preachers* seething, fiddly-dickly guide to self-glottation, *Motorcycle Empires* and *You Love Us*, which will have you stopping on the gas as you pass the local primary school, and causing a near-miss with a pensioner. *Express Yourself* by Madonna, followed by the Chemical (see *Dust*) Brothers' remix of *Primal Scream's Jailbird* should get you to the ring road and the first emergency stop at a service station; and *Belinda Carlisle's Heaven is a Place on Earth* should kick in as you head up to the flyover, from where you will survey the sordid city you're abandoning to the strains of *Hysteria Unknown* by *Strangelove*.

You will both operationally echo the way Patrick Strangelove sings the line "And in a very sexual way", which will make the people in the car next to you look at you most peculiar. You will be stuck wing-mirror to wing-mirror with them for the next hour, as you have reached your first contraflow and the end of side one. Turn the tape off and listen to the traffic reports on the radio. **Despair.**

Tape 1 Side 2
YOU'RE passing through *Some Countryside* on a motorway. You heard the weather report after the traffic. You need to be reminded that the *Open Road* is a Good Thing. The *Calendula* remix of *Fun Gohnd Be (500 Miles)* by *The Predecessors* should help a little. Follow

it up with *Bruce by ELO* (I know, I know, but you're 60 miles away from your cool friends) and *Urban Clearway* by *St Edmund's Truck Train Tractor* by *The Pussies* mentions lots of vehicles, so that should help, especially if it is followed by *Roadmaster* by *Gene Clarke* and *Double Vegetation* and *East Easy Rider* by *Julian Cope* — the last is about a friend who died in a crash, but try to ignore that.

You might want to bung *Room by the B-Sz* on next, and have a *Beatles* chaser — *Everyone's Got Something to Hide (Except for Me and My Monkey)* — as the cowbell negates the fact it's started raining. Finish with some *Crowded House* — equal parts the *Temple of Low Men* album to *Together Alone* for that essential pop kick. You should now be off the motorway and at your first stop. Go to bed.

Tape 2 Side 1
THIS should see you driving down tiny, pitted roads in the middle of the Wilderness. You will be missing home. You will be missing one tin opener. Beans will no longer seem as attractive as of yore. You will be irrationally annoyed by how spectacular the mountains are, and long for the sight of a Marks & Spencer. Turn up that stereo and start with *Less Mellow* by *The Rastless Rap Assassins*, as the squiggly samples and massive bassline should scare the wildlife (which will make you feel better). Follow it with *Whatta Man* by *Salt 'n' Peppas*, and *My Lovin' (You Ain't Never Gonna Get It)* by *En Vogue*. The 12th version of *Lazarus* by *The Boo Radleys*, mixed cunningly into *Planet Teler* by *Radiohead*, segued into *Freedom* by *George Michael*, and topped off by *Sabotage* by *The Beastie Boys* should cheer you up — just in time for it to start raining.

Miserable-out with *Where Did You Sleep Last Night* from the *Nirvana Unplugged* in *New York* album, and its sister piece *A Day in The Life* by *The Beatles*, with *Good Advice* by *R.E.M.* and *Radioactivity* by *Kraftwerk*, which should lead to a massive depression session, followed by the discovery that another tin opener has gone missing. Debate whether to go home or not for an hour.

Tape 2 Side 2
MAKE the rain cease with *Six Months in a Leaky Boat* by *Spitz* and *In The Days Before Rock'n'Roll* by *Van Morrison*. Change, by *The Lightning Seeds*, will bring the sun out, just in time for *Lower, You Should Have Come* by *Jeff Buckley* to cause a blizzard and gale-force winds. Check into that warm, dry hotel in the distance, and stay there, listening to *Astral Weeks* and *Monow* Compilations. Caravan holidays suck.



CAITLIN MORAN



What did Led Zeppelin — (from left) John Paul Jones, Robert Plant, Jimmy Page and John Bonham — do to deserve the likes of Blind Melon?

Holed lotta love

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Encomium — A Tribute to Led Zeppelin
(Atlantic 7567-82731)

IT IS very difficult to improve on a Led Zeppelin performance, and the producers of *Encomium* have assembled a stellar cast of musicians to prove it. All American (apart from Duran Duran and Robert Plant) and all modern rockers of one sort or another (except for *Tori Amos*), the 12 acts do what they can to bring their choices to life.

Stone Temple Pilots give *Dancing Days* the delicate, unplugged treatment. Helmet with *David Yow* (of the *Jesus Lizard*) stick the heavy metal boot into *Custard Pie*. And Henry Rollins converts *Four Sticks* into his standard madman-on-steroids rant.

But for the rest — including 4 Non Blondes (*Misty Mountain Hop*), Mootie & the Blowfish (*Hey Hey What Can I Do*), Sheryl Crow (*Dyer Mak'er*) and Big Head Todd and the Monsters (*Tangerine*) — imitation turns out to be the only viable form of flattery. The prize for the most faithful performance goes to Cracker for their eerily accurate facsimile of *Good Times Bad Times*, while Blind Melon take the wooden spoon for their hopelessly sloppy attempt at *Out on the Tiles*.

The album closes with Plant and Amos engaged in a doty seven-minute duet of *Down by the Seaside*, which they both seem to be singing as if completely unable to hear each other. Sadly, Rolf Harris's version of *Stairway To Heaven* is not included.

BOMB THE BASS

Clear (Fourth & Broadway 524 061)
"I THINK it's time to discuss your philosophy of drug use as it relates to artistic endeavour," is the arresting opening gambit of *Clear*. And the third album by producer, programmer and remix artist Tim Simenon's umbrella organisation Bomb the Bass is indeed a collection which expertly celebrates a variety of "artificially" adjusted musical stases — techno, ambient, trip hop, dub, a virtual catalogue of the most happening sounds of 1995.

Perhaps because he is more of a facilitator than a performer, Simenon has held his ground at the cutting edge of dance culture since the release of his first single *Beat Dis* in 1988, an impressive achievement given the dizzying rapid turnover of acts and ideas in that world. He is free to recruit the best musicians, new or old, and harness their work to the latest technology and fashions.

But it is also a situation which leaves him struggling to impose his own personality on his music, and *Clear* emerges as an album in the grip of a mild identity crisis, thanks to its procession of guest artists — rapper Justin Warfield, Sinéad O'Connor, Bim Sherman (of *On-U Sound*), reggae rapper Spiky Tee — each of whom stamp a

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair on a doubtless sincere but sadly flawed tribute to rock gods Led Zeppelin

distinctive mark on their respective songs.

So, the sinistral *5ml Barrel*, a vehicle for a grotesque monologue by avant-garde novelist Will Self detailing the physical deformities caused by one form of drug abuse, is followed in quick succession by a delightful African percussion-led ambient soundscape (*Somewhere*), and Bernard Fowler crooning his way through the tedious supper-club techno-soul of *Sandcastles*. It is a hell of a ride, but beware of sudden swerves.

BOB DYLAN

Unplugged (Columbia 478374)
GIVEN the howls of protest from the purists when Bob Dylan first "went electric" in 1965, one could easily envisage him treating his performance

on MTV's *Unplugged* show in New York last November as an opportunity to revisit his folk roots.

But *Unplugged* these days is more of a brand name than a literal reality, and, like most recent participants, Dylan simply turns in a quieter-than-average, live greatest hits album, deploying Hammond organ, pedal steel guitar and a full "rock" drum kit as and

when called for on songs including *Like a Rolling Stone*, *All Along the Watchtower*, *Rainy Day Women #12 & 35* and *The Times They Are A-Changin'*.

Even at its most acoustic — as on *Love Minus Zero/No Limit* and *John Brown*, which Dylan wrote in 1963 but has never released under his own name before now — *Unplugged* does not come close to

the spartan, genuinely unplugged folk sound of Dylan's previous two albums, *World Gone Wrong* and *Good As I Been To You*.

Whether it is the sense of occasion, or simply the effect of the ridiculously enthusiastic Big Apple audience — which cheers, claps and whistles through the entire first verse and chorus of *Knockin' On Heaven's Door* — Dylan sings these battered old songs with unusual care and conviction. In particular, he produces a surprisingly telling version of *With God On Our Side* and a superbly emotional rendition of *Shooting Star*: "I always kind of wondered if you ever made it through/Seen a shooting star tonight/And I thought of you."

But still, as he goes charging through the endlessly convoluted stanzas of *Desolation Row* and *Tombstone Blues*, laying waste to metre and melody alike, one eternal mystery remains. How does he remember all those words?

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Greatest Hits* ... Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)
- 2 *Picture This* ... Wet Wet Wet (Famous)
- 3 *The Colour Of My Love* ... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 4 *Medusa* ... Annie Lennox (RCA)
- 5 *Wake Up!* ... Boo Radleys (Creation)
- 6 *Made in England* ... Elton John (Rocket)
- 7 *The Choir* ... Anthony Way (Decca)
- 8 *Elastic* ... Elastic (Deceptive)
- 9 *No Need To Argue* ... Cranberries (Island)
- 10 *Dummy* ... Portishead (Glo Discs)

Compiled by MRS

A DECADE ago, who would have dared bet that the Artist Formerly Known As Oz (and, more lately, Spender) would end up as a multi-platinum recording artist? You can't even blame it all on last autumn's television series *Crocodile Shoes*, in which the lanky and lugubrious Jimmy Nail played a Geordie factory worker with designs on Nashville-style fame and fortune.

As Nail pointed out at the beginning of the one London date on what has been a highly successful British tour, he has been trying his hand at music for 25 years now. There have been other hit records, too: in 1985 he reached No 3 with a cover of the Rose Royce hit *Love Don't Live Here Any More*, and in 1992 he topped the charts with an original song, *Ain't No Doubt*.

CONCERN

Howay the lad

Jimmy Nail
Hammersmith
Apollo

But it is the combination of his own idiosyncratic personality and the dream exposure of a seven-week prime time slot that has finally brought momentum to the musical side of Nail's career. And, if you like a well-behaved rock-country hybrid that looks out at you from beneath a perma-

nently raised eyebrow, look no further than Nail, who tours again in the summer. The show he offers ignores his two earlier hits and concentrates instead on a more high-budget version of the sort of music favoured by competent bar and club bands everywhere from Texas to Tyne and Wear.

The best moments, as on the *Crocodile Shoes* album itself, come via the trio of songs written by Paddy McAloon, each an object lesson in the art of simple pop craftsmanship.

Elsewhere, covers of Merle Haggard, John Lennon and, especially, Roy Orbison tracks were shaky, but a duet with his support act, the Texan singer-songwriter Deana Carter, had a genuine charm.

ALAN JACKSON

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94

Indirect sex bias in mobility clause

Meade-Hill and Another v British Council

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Millett
[Judgment April 7]

A clause in a contract of employment that an employee should serve in such parts of the United Kingdom as her employers might require was unlawful indirect discrimination within sections 1(1)(b) and 6(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 unless the employer could justify the requirement in the clause irrespective of the sex of the person to whom it was applied.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith dissenting, while allowing an appeal by Denise Meade-Smith and the National Union of Civil and Public Servants against the dismissal of Queen Elizabeth Edwards made in Central London County Court on January 6, 1994 of an application for, inter alia, a declaration that the mobility clause in the contract of employment was unlawful.

The clause made it a term of her contract that she should serve in such parts of the United Kingdom as her employers might in their discretion require.

Section 1(1)(b) of the 1975 Act defined indirect discrimination as a person discriminating against a woman in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if—(a) on the basis of her sex she is treated less favourably than a man or (b) she applies to her in a requirement or condition which applies or would apply equally to a man but—(i) which is such that the proportion of women who can comply with it is considerably

smaller than the proportion of men who can comply with it, and (ii) which cannot be shown to be justified irrespective of the sex of the person to whom it is applied, and (iii) which is to her detriment because she cannot comply with it.

Section 6(1) of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) It is unlawful for a person, in relation to employment by him at an establishment in Great Britain, to discriminate against a woman—(a) in the terms on which he offers her that employment, or

Miss Cherie Booth and Miss Helen Mountfield for the appellants; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Gerard Clarke for the British Council.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that on her promotion to grade G in 1990 Mrs Meade-Hill had been required to accept a variation of her contract of employment by the incorporation of a mobility clause, which applied to all full-time employees, whether men or women, of grade G or above.

The clause made it a term of her contract that she should serve in such parts of the United Kingdom as her employers might in their discretion require.

Section 1(1)(b) of the 1975 Act defined indirect discrimination as a person discriminating against a woman in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if—(a) on the basis of her sex she is treated less favourably than a man or (b) she applies to her in a requirement or condition which applies or would apply equally to a man but—(i) which is such that the proportion of women who can comply with it is considerably

Mrs Meade-Hill's complaint

was directed against the inclusion of the mobility clause in her contract of employment. Whether she could do so depended on whether its inclusion per se constituted, or was in furtherance of, or provided for, unlawful discrimination against her as a woman.

The starting point was to identify the "requirement" of which she complained. That was that she must work in whatever location in the United Kingdom her employers might direct. She had no difficulty in establishing that the inclusion of the mobility clause in her contract, unless justified irrespective of her sex, amounted to indirect discrimination against her.

The remaining question was whether the inclusion of the mobility clause amounted to unlawful discrimination. In his Lordship's view it did, because section 6(1) was not confined to applicants for employment but extended to existing employees who were offered employment on new terms or promotion.

The case should be remitted to the county court to consider whether the clause was justified irrespective of sex, and if not whether the clause should be deleted or substituted.

His Lordship said that conclusion did not mean that Mrs Meade-Hill had won a great and glorious victory. He believed that the exercise was likely to prove largely academic. All the employees had to justify was their need to be in a position if circumstances required at any time in the future to direct an employee of grade G to work elsewhere in the United Kingdom even if he or she could

not in practice comply. Moreover, even if the mobility clause could not be justified in its present form, the objectionable aspects of the clause would disappear if it were modified so that compliance could not be required from an employee who was unable to comply with it in practice.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said the preliminary and perhaps decisive issue was to determine at what point of time the impact of the application of the term by the employer to the appellant and the requirement that it be to her detriment because she could not comply with it was to be judged.

Miss Booth urged that they should be assessed at the moment when the impugned term became incorporated into the contract. Mr Pannick said that the moment should be when it became reasonably foreseeable that the term was one with which an applicant would be unable to comply.

In his Lordship's view that was a matter of impression and interpretation which best accorded with the objective of the Act was to regard them as falling to be judged at the moment when the contract was entered into.

The employer was applying the mobility clause to the appellant within the terms of section 1(1)(b), and Mrs Meade-Hill could not rely on the fact that the clause was not applied to her at the moment when she was employed as a requirement with which she could not comply. He would allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH gave a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners; Treasury Solicitor.

London v British Coal Corporation

Before Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 9]

Where an employee received payments of incapacity pension from a contributory employment scheme which provided for either an incapacity pension or a retirement pension, the payments were not deductible from that part of an award for damages for negligence representing the loss of retirement pension on the ground that the plaintiff would thereby be doubly compensated.

The plaintiff was entitled to the benefits of the incapacity pension payments because he had purchased them.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the British Coal Corporation against a judgment of Mr Justice Douglas Brown on November 24, 1992 awarding the plaintiff, Mr David London, the sum of £424,219.

London, the sum of £424,219, for injuries sustained during his employment as deputy at West Thorpe Colliery, Derbyshire. The defendants had contended that the plaintiff was doubly compensated.

Mr Simon Hawkesworth, QC and Mrs Margaret Biddford-Smith for the British Coal Corporation; Mr Ian McLaren, QC for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the plaintiff's award for loss of earnings was calculated using a multiplier which represented his net earnings, his earnings after deductions which

included 6 per cent payable to the pension scheme.

Further, the appellants' pension scheme was a contributory scheme, not a non-contributory one. The plaintiff had to pay contributions of 7.08 per cent of his earnings to the scheme. The plaintiff could not now purchase such a pension in the open market by paying as premiums the equivalent of 6 per cent of the earnings he would have had.

The House of Lords had decided that with regard to the retirement pension, a plaintiff had to give credit for the incapacity pension he would receive during that part of his life after retirement at the normal retirement age, where the incapacity pension arose under the same scheme, because the injured party's contributions were not deductible from that part of an award for damages for negligence representing the loss of retirement pension on the ground that the plaintiff would thereby be doubly compensated.

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Proving guilt of secondary party in attempted murder

Regina v O'Brien

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Poplewell and Mr Justice Johnson
[Judgment March 16]

For a secondary party to be found guilty of attempted murder it was not necessary for the prosecution to prove that he knew that the principal intended to kill; it was sufficient to prove that he knew the principal might shoot to kill.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Michael O'Brien against his conviction in March 1993 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Laws and a jury) of two counts of attempted murder for which he was sentenced to concurrent terms of 18 years imprisonment on each count and a further order of imprisonment for life for which he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment concurrent.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr Tim Owen, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr John Nutting and Mr David Waters for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been jointly indicted with another man, Paul Patrick Magee. In addition to being convicted, as the principal, of the same offences as the appellant, Magee was also convicted of murder and one further offence of attempted murder.

The principal ground of appeal was that if the appellant was to be found guilty of attempted murder, whether as a participant in a joint

enterprise with Magee, or as aider and abettor of Magee, the jury had to find that he knew before the firing of the shot by Magee that Magee did intend to kill. In other words, if he knew that Magee would shoot to kill, not that he might do so.

The court had been referred to a number of recent authorities concerning the state of mind which a secondary party, who did not himself intend to kill, had to have if he was to be found guilty of murder. These authorities were all appeals in cases of joint enterprise. But Mr Mansfield argued that the same principle applied equally to an aider and abettor.

In *Chan Wing-Siu v The Queen* [1985] AC 168, 175 Sir Robin Cooke said: "The case must depend rather on the wider principle whereby a secondary party is criminally liable for acts by the primary offender of a type which the former foresees but does not necessarily intend. That there is such a principle is not in doubt."

"It turns on contemplation or, putting the same idea in other words, authorisation, which may be express but is more usually implied. It meets the case of a crime foreseen as a possible incident of the common unlawful enterprise. The criminal culpability lies in participating in the venture with that foresight."

That passage was approved and cited in the judgments of the Court of Appeal in *R v Ward* (1987) 85 Cr App R 71 and *R v Slack* (1989) QB 773 and quoted and approved in *R v Hyde* (1991) 1 QB 134, 138.

That passage and its adoption in

Hyde were further referred to with approval in the most recent decision, that of the Privy Council in *Hui Chi-ming v The Queen* [1992] 1 AC 24.

Mr Mansfield submitted that, though that was the test to establish liability by a person who aided and abetted, or was party to a joint enterprise which resulted in a murder, the same test did not suffice for attempted murder.

He argued that since the intention of the principal in attempted murder was to kill, so that the secondary party was only guilty if he knew that the principal did intend to kill; in the judge's phrase in this case, that he "will shoot to kill".

Their Lordships did not follow the logic of that argument. The jury clearly found that the appellant, knowing that Magee had the rifle, assisted him by stopping the car and thereafter reverting it towards the following police car.

It, following the judge's direction, they concluded that Magee might shoot to kill and if he had actually killed one of those police officers, on the authorities to which the court had been referred, the appellant would have been guilty of murder.

There was in their Lordships' judgment no logical reason why the same knowledge should not make him guilty of attempted murder once the jury were sure that Magee himself was guilty of that offence.

Accordingly, the appeal against conviction failed and was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Willowell Ltd v Westminster City Council

Before Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment March 16]

Lewd sexual displays by young males, or semi-naked women that included gyrating to loud music while caressing their breasts and vaginas with their hands or using "muscle" or "body" as a form of public entertainment.

Under section 12 of the Greater London Council (General Provisions) Act 1968 and Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, premises used for such displays were liable to be closed to the public.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Willowell Ltd from a decision by Mrs Sheila Curren, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on February 18, 1994, holding that its premises at 24 Great Windmill Street, Soho, was unlawful and refusing to order the local au-

thority, Westminster City Council, to pay compensation for seizure of its property.

Mr Charles Salter for Willowell Ltd; Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, for Westminster.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that inside the premises were booths and when customers put money in a coin meter they could see through a window or more often naked above the waist and who might have been naked below their waists, gyrating while caressing themselves with their hands and caressing in particular their breasts and vaginas.

While these movements were made, loud music of a modern and popular kind was played. As more coins were placed in the meter the display became more explicitly sexual.

But for Mr Salter's argument, one would have no hesitation in concluding that the activities did not fall within the terms of the entertainment licence obtained by Willowell for "music or public dancing or other public entertainment of the like kind."

Mr Salter submitted that the activities were young women, the activities in their entirety came within the definition of music and

dancing. He argued that many types of dance were sexually stimulating both to the dancers and to observers.

It was wrong, he said, to look at old Victorian authorities such as *Reg v Biggin* (1883) 12 QBD 112 where it was laid down that "it is not every movement of the legs and feet which constitutes dancing. It must be a graceful and rhythmic movement."

Mr Salter placed great reliance on the unreported decision of the Divisional Court on July 12, 1994 in *Sumner v Westminster City Council*. There, indecent displays of young women were found to be within the scope of the licence.

The Divisional Court found that the activities were young women, the activities in their entirety came within the definition of music and

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

Dunlop treads carefully in classic trials

These are anxious times for John Dunlop. After three months of intense preparation, two horses will race for a combined total of three minutes, the outcome to which will largely govern his fortunes for the rest of the year.

Comprehensive defeats for Aqarid and Nwamis in their respective classic trials will consign Dunlop to a season of retrieval. He will have barely heard the starting gun, yet the compass, pointing north from his stables in west Sussex, will settle on the less enticing venues. For Newmarket, read Newcastle; for Epsom, read Edinburgh. It may prove a demanding season for his travelling head.

In fact, this ruthless scenario applies more to Nwamis than Aqarid, whose pedigree dictates that her candle may flicker still in early June. Overall, however, Dunlop is plagued by a lack of



Dunlop supervises his string in the early morning sunshine as they prepare for exercise on the gallops at his Arundel base. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Two-year-old
BINT SHADAYD
Three-year-old
WESTERN FAME
Older horse
LAVINIA FONTANA

depth among the classic generation. And the tribe of older horses, his traditional source of strength, lacks substance. All that will fade beyond recall if Nwamis or Aqarid make the grade. Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's Nwamis, a strong bay colt, is certainly well connected. A half-brother to the stable's top-class miler, Lahib, he already has one thing going for him. Sheikh Hamdan is known as a 'lucky' owner, and Nwamis is the apple of his eye.

If, three weeks ago, the indications were that Nwamis had not yet awoken from hibernation, that notion has since been dispelled. He now radiates health and his homeworn has picked up immeasurably. 'I gave him his first searching gallop with some older horses on Saturday and he came through strongly,' Dunlop said.

'Nwamis will improve for his run in the Craven Stakes. He does need experience. He's

only had the one run but he was very impressive at Newmarket on ground probably softer than he likes. Last year we were held up by a bit of inflammation in his front legs. He's over all of that and is progressing well.

That 'Newmarket' victory was gained over six furlongs, and Nwamis, a son of Daylur, will first have to prove that he stays a mile. 'Both he and Lahib are similar in that they are very relaxed horses,' Dunlop ventured. 'Nwamis is not highly tensioned. He does not display obvious sprinting characteristics.'

In former years, Dunlop, 55, would have probably sent Nwamis a less taxing agenda: He leases Castle Stables

from Lavinia. Duchess of Norfolk, whose Arundel Castle dominates the landscape. The duchess was a staunch patron until her daughter, Lady Herries, recently turned her attention to training flat horses at nearby Angmering Park. But for that, Celtic Swing would be gracing Dunlop's stable.

'I trained Celtic Swing's dam, his grand-dam and his great-grand-dam,' Dunlop reflected, 'but Lady Anne obviously knows far more about Celtic Swing than I do. It would be marvellous if he went on to great things, but just for his trainer but for the good of racing. It's marvellous to have a top-class horse for the sake of the public.'



JOHN DUNLOP
by
Julian Muscat

Given Celtic Swing's inherent ability, Nwamis will have to make significant strides in a short time. The same is not true of Aqarid, whose ancestry tells of a different story. By Nashwan, she descends from a distinguished training family and her full-brother, Muwakkil, had a promising staying career cut short by injury last term.

The fact that a combination

of class and speed saw her land her debut over six furlongs bodes well for her future. 'What is encouraging about Nashwan as a stallion is that many of his progeny have speed,' Dunlop said. 'I'd always thought of Aqarid as more of an Oaks filly but it makes sense to have a go at the 1,000 Guineas first.'

Racegoers can expect to see a different filly to the one

which snatched the Fillies' Mile to remain unbeaten in two starts. 'Aqarid has developed a tremendous amount. She doesn't do much at home, which can be slightly confusing, but after 30 years on the gallops one can obviously get an impression. Looking ahead to the Oaks, I won't be distraught if she falls honourably at Newmarket.'

With evident regret, Dunlop declares his Derby cupboard bare. There is to be no instant repeat of Erhaab's thrilling victory last June. Yet those fond memories — coupled with the lack of obvious candidates, on pedigree, among his two-year-olds — prompt him to broadcast a plea on behalf of the great race.

Guineas hopes impress in work

TWO of the leading contenders for the 1,000 Guineas came through important workouts yesterday with flying colours.

Moonshell, the ante-post favourite, was put through her paces in Dubai. Frankie Dettori flew over to ride work on the Godolphin-owned three-year-old, who will be attempting to go one better in the Guineas than Balanchine did for the same connections last year.

Now trained by Saeed Bin Sueroor, Moonshell will go straight to the fillies' classic, as will Jural, who will spearhead Mark Johnston's hopes for major honours this year.

Jural is taking a similar path to Newmarket as Johnston's 2,000 Guineas winner, Mister Baileys, did last year. She was impressive in a workout at Ripon yesterday morning.

An unlucky runner-up in the Fillies' Mile at Ascot last year, Jural was ridden by Michael Kinane in the mile exercise. 'It was a good piece of work. She set off well behind Deano's Beeno and finished well past him, though Michael Kinane didn't really push the button and could have asked a lot more of her,' Johnston said.

'She will probably have another racecourse workout because there are no suitable races over a mile for her before the Guineas. I'm as pleased with her now as I was with Mister Baileys at the same stage last year.'

The Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket on Tuesday has been confirmed as the target of 1,000 Guineas second favourite Red Carnival. Chris Richardson, racing manager for the filly's owners, Chevalier Park Stud, said: 'She's a definite runner. This stage and Michael Stoute is pleased with her progress over the winter.'

'People rather forget that the Derby is the pinnacle. To be associated with a winner is very special, yet so few seem to think about breeding horses for it,' he lamented. 'It was what everyone wanted in the old days. The breed is quickly losing its stamina.'

That does not yet apply to Dunlop, whose evening stable round embraced every one of the 140 thoroughbreds in residence. He is, by nature, a guarded man, and whatever transpires during flat racing's silly season next week, he will surely contrive something to negate his belief that 'it could be a long old season in division three.'

Tomorrow: David Loder

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A sure sign that you are on your way out as a player is to be asked to serve on the Appeals Committee. In a tournament, if there is an infraction, the tournament director gives a ruling. If one side feels aggrieved, they may appeal. Here is a tricky case we had in Malta.

Dealer South North-South game Match pointed pairs

♠	♥	♦	♣
AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ
AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ
AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ	AKQJ

Two Hearts went one down, and North entered 100 points to East-West on the travelling shore. East-West objected, saying that they had doubled, and so the score should be 200. The tournament director ruled that the contract should be Two Hearts Doubled, as that was consistent with East-West's announced agreement that once they had doubled one rescue bid, they were not allowed to let the opponents

On the other hand, both North and South had entered Two Hearts undoubled on their personal scorecards, and West had only added the double to her scorecard at the end of the play. North-South clearly believed that somebody had to be summarised, so the Appeals Committee was called into action.

The two interpretations of what had happened were: 1. The evidence of the personal scorecards was to be believed. The East-West pair (experienced German internation-

als), once they had seen that the contract was going down, decided that they would improve their score by claiming that the contract was doubled. West had added to add verisimilitude to the fraud.

2. The internal evidence of the bidding was to be believed. As it was not possible for East to pass out Two Hearts undoubled, she must have seen a double. That meant that North-South (a much less experienced pair) had somehow missed the final double. All this was done with bidding boxes, by the way.

We ruled that the contract should be Two Hearts Doubled. The ruling implied that the explanation of the disagreement was that North-South (the less experienced pair) were the ones to have misheard (actually mis-seen) the bidding. Any views?

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge every day in the sports pages of The Times.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov dominant
The game today game concludes coverage of Anatoly Karpov's sovereign performance in the Monaco blindfold/rapid competition. In the final two rounds, although leading by a point, Karpov extracted the maximum and extended his lead by inflicting a double defeat on Alexei Shirov, the Latvian Grandmaster. Here is Karpov's win with the white pieces.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Alexei Shirov
Monaco, April 1995

Slav Defence

1 d4	d5
2 c4	c5
3 Nf3	Nf6
4 e3	e6
5 Nbd2	d6
6 Bb3	Bd7
7 O-O	O-O
8 Qc2	Qc7
9 Bc4	Bc6
10 Nd3	Nd7
11 Ne5	Nf6
12 Bb3	Bc6
13 Bc4	Bc6
14 Qc2	Qc7
15 g3	g6
16 Bc3	Bd7
17 Qf3	Qc7
18 Qd3	Qc7
19 Qd3	Qc7
20 Bb3	Bc6
21 Qd3	Qc7
22 Bb3	Bc6
23 Qd3	Qc7
24 Bb3	Bc6
25 Qd3	Qc7
26 Bb3	Bc6
27 Qd3	Qc7
28 Bb3	Bc6
29 Qd3	Qc7
30 Bb3	Bc6
31 Qd3	Qc7
32 Bb3	Bc6
33 Qd3	Qc7
34 Bb3	Bc6
35 Qd3	Qc7
36 Bb3	Bc6
37 Qd3	Qc7
38 Bb3	Bc6
39 Qd3	Qc7
40 Bb3	Bc6
41 Qd3	Qc7
42 Bb3	Bc6
43 Qd3	Qc7
44 Bb3	Bc6

King's Pawn Opening

1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nf6
3 d4	d5
4 Nc3	Bd6
5 Bb3	Bg4
6 Bg5	Nd7
7 Qd2	Qc7
8 Nbd2	Nf6
9 Nf3	Nf6
10 Nbd2	Nf6
11 Nf3	Nf6
12 Nbd2	Nf6
13 Nf3	Nf6
14 Nbd2	Nf6
15 Nf3	Nf6
16 Nbd2	Nf6
17 Nf3	Nf6
18 Nbd2	Nf6
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34 Nbd2	Nf6
35 Nf3	Nf6
36 Nbd2	Nf6
37 Nf3	Nf6
38 Nbd2	Nf6
39 Nf3	Nf6
40 Nbd2	Nf6
41 Nf3	Nf6
42 Nbd2	Nf6
43 Nf3	Nf6
44 Nbd2	Nf6

Winning Move
This position is from the game Mestrovic — Payen, Cannes 1995. How did White finish off the game by spotting a neat tactical opportunity?

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard

KOTATSU
a. A Russian sledge-dog
b. A chess gambit
c. The spotted dogfish

JIGOTAI
a. Paper flowers
b. A Thai coronet
c. A Hungarian terrier

HUSS
a. A Russian sledge-dog
b. A chess gambit
c. The spotted dogfish

KOTATSU
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FOOTBALL

SOUTH EAST COAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Dover 1, Margate 2, Ramsgate 3, Dover 4, Margate 5, Ramsgate 6, Dover 7, Margate 8, Ramsgate 9, Dover 10, Margate 11, Ramsgate 12, Dover 13, Margate 14, Ramsgate 15, Dover 16, Margate 17, Ramsgate 18, Dover 19, Margate 20, Ramsgate 21, Dover 22, Margate 23, Ramsgate 24, Dover 25, Margate 26, Ramsgate 27, Dover 28, Margate 29, Ramsgate 30, Dover 31, Margate 32, Ramsgate 33, Dover 34, Margate 35, Ramsgate 36, Dover 37, Margate 38, Ramsgate 39, Dover 40, Margate 41, Ramsgate 42, Dover 43, Margate 44, Ramsgate 45, Dover 46, Margate 47, Ramsgate 48, Dover 49, Margate 50, Ramsgate 51, Dover 52, Margate 53, Ramsgate 54, Dover 55, Margate 56, Ramsgate 57, Dover 58, Margate 59, Ramsgate 60, Dover 61, Margate 62, Ramsgate 63, Dover 64, Margate 65, Ramsgate 66, Dover 67, Margate 68, Ramsgate 69, Dover 70, Margate 71, Ramsgate 72, Dover 73, Margate 74, Ramsgate 75, Dover 76, Margate 77, Ramsgate 78, Dover 79, Margate 80, Ramsgate 81, Dover 82, Margate 83, 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Pick your Fantasy First XI and win £10,000

THE cricket season is under way and *The Times* game has begun with the chance to win £250 a week during the season and, for the best performance of the summer, a top prize of £10,000.

In association with Company Barclaycard, the United Kingdom's leading corporate charge card, we have renewed our exclusive arrangement with the Test and County Cricket Board to present *The Times Fantasy First XI*. The great strengths of last year's game, *First Class XI*, have been preserved. It is up to you to select the team you think will sweep the board. Every first-class run your players

score and every first-class wicket they take will count towards your total. There are no artificial additions, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of your selection skills and your eye for first-class talent.

But we have introduced some big improvements. We have simplified the rules, deepened the pool of players and introduced the chance to change your team during the season.

We have added the West Indies touring party to our list of overseas players, making the likes of Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose available for selection. We have dispensed

with the captains' category and replaced the reserve system with a transfer season. Starting on May 4, we will carry the full list of players' first-class scores and the names of the top 100 entries every Thursday, but, for the first time, we are also providing a Fantasy First XI hotline, so you can check your team's progress when it suits you.

This year, there is a new service designed to enable groups of players at home or at work to measure their selection skills against each other by forming a mini-league. You will also be able to enter an office team and try to win the Company Barclaycard League. Full details of these

Our new, improved cricket game offers you the chance to celebrate the start of another season and put your selection skills to the test

services will be published next week.

The rules are simple:

- 1) Select five batsmen.
- 2) Select one all-rounder.
- 3) Select one wicketkeeper.
- 4) Select four bowlers.
- 5) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) overseas player.
- 6) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories

published here (for example a player such as Graeme Hick, listed here as an all-rounder, may only be selected as an all-rounder, not as a batsman; Phillip DeFreitas is listed here as an all-rounder - he may not be selected as a bowler).

There will be a seven-day transfer season (July 12-18, when no first-class cricket is due to be played), during which you will be able to change up to four members of your team, although your final

XI must still conform to the six rules above. You do not have to change your team at all, but, if you choose to, you will receive the points scored by your original selection up to July 12 and those scored by the revised selection from the moment first-class play resumes on July 18.

Apart from these transfers, no changes will be allowed. No substitutions can be made, so it is worth bearing in mind the injury records of the players available. If a player is not playing first-class cricket, then he is not scoring in the Fantasy First XI.

Scoring: your score according to the performance of your players. For every run each of

your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or stumping), your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

In the event of a tie, the scores of the rising star will be decisive. If another tie-break is necessary, its form will be decided by *The Times Fantasy First XI* panel.

Entries: *The Times Fantasy First XI* season runs from yesterday (April 13) until September 18 but the deadline for entries is noon, April 27. Postal entries must be received by April 27. Only first-class matches, as designated by the Test and County Cricket Board, throughout the season (including those played before the closing date for entries to this competition) will count. One-day games do not count.

As last year, you can enter by phone or by post. Phone calls will be charged at 39p per minute plus VAT. An average call should last no more than six minutes.

Please note that postal entries must be accompanied by a fee of £2.50, and cheques should be made payable to *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

How to enter by phone or post

THE 24-hour telephone lines are open now and close at noon on Thursday April 27, the day the Britannic Assurance County Championship begins. Runs scored and wickets taken in the first-class games before that date will count in Fantasy First XI. But beware the last-minute rush.

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone. Most push-button telephones with a 12 and a hash key are Touch-toned to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 089 70056.

Then follow the step-by-step instructions. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference numbers) for each of your 11 chosen players in the following order: the five batsmen, the all-rounder, the wicketkeeper, the bowlers.

Make sure you have picked one overseas player and one rising star in your team. An incorrect entry will be void. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be given a two-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Fantasy First XI* but to record your selections and your PIN.

Calls cost 39p per minute plus VAT. Each call will last about six minutes.

Competitors may give their teams any name of up to 16 characters. If a name is considered to be in poor taste by the panel, or if that name has been taken, the competitor's surname will be used.

Readers wishing to enter by post should complete their Fantasy First XI list and send it (photocopies are not acceptable) with a cheque or postal order for £2.50 to *The Times Fantasy First XI*, Abacus House, Durdley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NS. Cheques should be made payable to *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

All entries, whether by telephone or post, will be acknowledged. Queries should be made direct to Abacus on 01582 457444, quoting *The Times Fantasy First XI*.

England regulars may not provide the most points

By SIMON WILDE

CHOOSING a team for the Fantasy First XI competition involves many delicate decisions. If your first-choice players are affected by injuries and dramatic losses of form, there will be nothing you can do about replacing them until the transfer period arrives in mid-July. But there are ways in which you can enhance the prospects of your side from the outset.

One is to think carefully before choosing any player who might be called on regularly by England, who are involved in a Texaco Trophy series and six Cornhill Test matches against West Indies. The Texaco Trophy will deprive all the England players except those from Surrey of one first-class match for their counties - and their performances in the three one-day internationals will not, of course, count towards the Fantasy First XI game.

And, while runs scored, wickets taken and wicket-keeping dismissals accomplished in the Test matches will count, these will be all the harder to come by against the might of West Indies. Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, who have retired from international cricket and might be expected to score heavily in the less fierce environment of county cricket, could well be more productive selections than, say, Michael Atherton and Darren Gough, who will miss seven and six championship matches respectively if they play in every England international.

Other shrewd selections might be those players who spend the summer pushing hard to regain their England places - players, perhaps, such as Robin Smith, Andrew Caddick and Martin McCague.

Another delicate decision is the choice of overseas player. Thirteen players are listed below who are expected to be included in the West Indies tour party, which will not be announced until later this month. They offer some valuable options, such as Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who have retired from international cricket and might be expected to score heavily in the less fierce environment of county cricket, could well be more productive selections than, say, Michael Atherton and Darren Gough, who will miss seven and six championship matches respectively if they play in every England international.

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An alternative is to select one of the overseas players attached to first-class counties. Seventeen such cricketers are listed below. Surrey, the eighteenth county, having not yet confirmed their choice in the wake of Waqar Younis's injury problems.

It should be noted that a number of overseas county players will not join their teams until after the season has begun and will miss fixtures as a result. Manoj Prabhakar, who is playing in Sharjah, misses Durham's match with Oxford University which started yesterday and Mark Waugh, who is touring the Caribbean with Australia, will not join Essex until May 16. By then, his county will have completed championship matches against Leicestershire and Worcestershire and a three-day fixture with Cambridge University.

Oris Gibson, Glamorgan's nominated overseas player, will not learn until April 21 whether he will be playing for them or touring with West Indies. If he is available to Glamorgan, he will join in time for the start of their championship campaign but will have missed the county's match against Oxford University.

Aravinda de Silva, of Kent, Mushtaq Ahmed, of Somerset, and Wasim Akram, of Lancashire, may all leave their counties early to take part in a Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka scheduled for September.

A number of county cricketers may be taken away from their counties to play for England Under-19, who meet their South African counterparts in two one-day internationals and three Test matches between July 1 and August 13. Most prominent among these will be Marcus Trescothick, the England Under-19 captain, who will miss three championship matches for Somerset as a result. Under-19 matches are not first-class.

Neither Tom Moody, of Worcestershire, nor Michael Bevan, of Yorkshire, will be chosen for the Australia party that will tour England and Wales in July and August. The Australia players will be ineligible for the game.

Two Oxford University players who join counties after the University match finishes on July 7 have been included: Gregor Macmillan, a batsman, will be added to Leicestershire's staff, and Richard Yabsley will supplement Middlesex's bowling strength. Yabsley's appearances for Oxford, though, may be restricted by examination demands.

England regulars may not provide the most points

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THE TIMES

To enter by phone call **089 70056**

Calls cost 39p a minute plus VAT. 49p a minute at other times. Calls over 10 minutes will be charged at 10p a minute.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

University bowlers struggle as cricket season starts under blue skies

Three Yorkshire batsmen gorge on weak bowling

By SIMON WILDE

FENNER'S first day of three; Cambridge won toss; Cambridge University, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 467 runs behind Yorkshire

YESTERDAY at Fenner's had almost everything the impartial onlooker could have asked for. Taking advantage of the approaching Easter break, blue skies and warm sunshine, several hundred people poured through the gates to savour the start of another season and an orgy of run-making. Martyn Moxon scored 130, David Byas a career-best 181 and Michael Bevan, recruited from New South Wales, an unbeaten 113 on his first county appearance in this county.

The only thing that was missing was a purpose. What was the point of these run-hungry professionals thrashing undergraduate trundleers to all parts of the ground? On this evidence, the only conclusion was that there was none. Cambridge University, who do not possess one player contracted to a first-class county.

Their only proven bowler on show yesterday was Haste, who plucked out the off stump of Vaughan in his second over of the day. The next three wickets realised 235, 132 and 106, respectively. Vaughan, who had a disappointing winter tour of India with England A, must have been difficult remembering his last worthwhile score. Certainly, every-one of the 60-ours and two sides with which his colleagues peppered the

boundary can have only added to his misery.

Traditional alone now dictates that Oxford and Cambridge Universities are worthy of first-class status. They will not retain it on merit until they adopt a broad admissions policy of accepting cricketers for their sporting ability alone. At the moment, entrants must have brains first and cricketing prowess second.

A growing body of opinion finds this the more unacceptable because there are outstanding young players around the country who are desperate for an extended run in top-class cricket. These players include most of the members of the England Under-19 party that toured West Indies, with some success, in the winter.

Graham Saville, the Eng-

land Under-19 manager and, as it happens, Cambridge University's coach, reckons that only one of that party will start the season in his county first XI. Some of the others, he feels, might play first-team cricket at some stage this season. The others may have to wait one or two years for their chance.

If the soon-to-be English Cricket Board is serious about raising standards, it could begin by creating an "Academy" team that could fulfil the sort of fixture lists that Oxford and Cambridge carry out.

If yesterday was anything to go by, Cambridge's other problem - that of their square - is over. Once the truce in the country, it finished bottom of the class last season as far as the first-class umpires were concerned. But a winter of hard work has seen great strides made.

It was certainly to the liking of the Yorkshire batsmen. Moxon and Byas jostled for the first century of the season. Moxon getting there 25 minutes ahead of his partner, at ten minutes to three. By then many of the spectators, but not the scoreboard operator, were close to slumber, though most later stirred to admire the wistful elegance of Bevan.

Bevan may or may not have been making his first-class debut for Yorkshire yesterday, depending on the status, yet to be decided, of a three-day match against a Western Province XI. In that match he scored 140. It cannot have been any easier than yesterday.



Byas plays a handsome drive off Whittall during the course of a career-best innings of 181 against Cambridge University at Fenner's. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Morris caught short as Roseberry meanders along

By JACK BAYLEY

THE PARKS first day of three, Durham won toss; Durham have scored 272 for four wickets against Oxford University

LITTLE has changed. The Parks in the sunshine was a joy to behold. The pitch was true, the scoreboard as forgiving as ever. The first match of the season saw Durham bat all day against cheerfully keen fielding and one or two promising spells of bowling by unfamiliar undergraduates, both of which man-

aged to restrict Durham's better within the bounds of fewer than three runs an over.

The day's pleasure was not harmed by its predictability. Those who know him were not surprised by Mike Roseberry translating his first match as the Durham captain in to the need to stay at the crease as long as possible. This meant an innings of four hours and 20 minutes during which he proceeded to a measured way, to 90 and had a good view of the prime form of John Morris, who batted him add 163 from 51 overs.

Morris reached the third 99

of his career with a weight of stroke to which nobody else aspired. Three sides, one of them high and straight over the pavilion, came his way as did 11 fours, all made with the timing and economy of effort which brought him a tour of Australia in 1990-91 and saw him at the head of Durham's batting last season.

He was out chipping to short mid-wicket the ball he intended to push for the vital single to complete his hundred, and if this was the surprise of the day, it was a mild one. That he should fall to Gregor Macmillan, the

Oxford captain and off spinner, was not entirely unexpected. Macmillan has a faith in his own bowling rarely recognised by his predecessor and he kept a fair line and length throughout the day, as did Malik.

There was promise, too, in the seam bowling of two freshmen - Angus MacRobert and David Mather. MacRobert's virtue of keeping the ball up to the bat and giving it a chance to swing befitted a man who has played for Western Province and accounted early for Saxelby, caught at second slip.

Mather, a left-arm medium fast bowler, ended Roseberry's innings with the help of a fine catch, taken high and wide by Townsend, and out off Daley just as he was beginning to blossom.

With more sympathetic field-setting, Justin Rickerts, the captain of the Authentics last year, could also be an asset. His leg breaks have achieved little turn as yet, but he kept the ball well up to the bat and had the batsmen reaching for him. Not much of a day, perhaps, for those who crave excitement in large dollops, but one to treasure.

SCOREBOARD

DURHAM: First Innings	
M A Roseberry c Townsend b Mather	80
M Saxelby c Macmillan b MacRobert	26
J E Morris c Pickett b Macmillan	20
J A Daley b Mather	10
J Longley not out	3
S Hudson not out	3
Bones (lb 3, lb 4)	7
Total (4 wickets, 88 overs)	272
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings	
R C Whittall b J Wood, A Walker and S J E Brown to test	10
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-102, 3-211, 4-254	
BOWLING: MacRobert 22-3-57-1, Malik 14-22-20-43-2, Rickerts 13-3-43-0, Macmillan 24-5-53-1, Mather 16-3-35-2	
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Second Innings	
G Macmillan b G J MacRobert	10
Saxelby, C M Curran, A C Rickard, W S Verelst, H S Malik, N P C Martin, A D MacRobert, J D Rickerts, T C Townsend and D P Mather	
Umpires: J W Holder and M J Kitchen	

SPORTS LETTERS

Time to face professionalism

From Mr Johnny Sutton

Sir, The article by Mark Sooster and David Hands (April 6), about steps being taken by the Rugby Football Union to limit the number of non-England qualified players who may appear in the Courage Clubs Championship, ignored the most important issue underlying the influx of Scottish and Irish players to the English game.

There is no doubt that the standard of league rugby in England is, as usual, shining away from the main issue facing rugby union. Instead of instigating an insular system for the leagues, it should be making all efforts to bring the issue of professionalism out in the open, so that rugby can move on, leaving behind the old school image still perpetrated by the RFU committee and which has nothing to do with the modern game.

However, the arrival of non-English players is not some plot by the Scots or Irish to raise the standard of their international sides by using the English system. Nor do Irish and Scottish players feel some great calling to leave their native countries to savour the aesthetic beauty of

places such as West Hartlepool and Northampton.

In reality, the players involved sign forms for those clubs which offer them the most attractive packages. We are not talking here just about jobs or expenses, but houses, cars, and more. I don't believe this is a bad thing, and strongly expect the game will move more and more quickly down this road over the next few years as it transfers onto a semi-professional basis.

What is clear, however, is that the RFU is, as usual, shying away from the main issue facing rugby union. Instead of instigating an insular system for the leagues, it should be making all efforts to bring the issue of professionalism out in the open, so that rugby can move on, leaving behind the old school image still perpetrated by the RFU committee and which has nothing to do with the modern game.

Yours sincerely,
JOHNNY SUTTON,
34 Alma Road, SW18.

Innocents abroad

From Mr James Slack

Sir, The reputation of the English football supporter abroad has again been seriously tarnished during Chelsea's visit to Real Zaragoza (report, April 7). Whilst the behaviour of a fringe element within the Chelsea support was deplorable, this does not excuse the behaviour of the Spanish police.

When trouble erupted, a significant proportion of the Chelsea followers remained seated, presumably because they wished to play no part in the events they were witnessing. A number of these supporters were, however, struck repeatedly and forcibly around the head whilst they continued to remain seated. The younger generation is

continually told that violence should not be condoned in any form. This statement is difficult to support when television pictures depict supposed law enforcers committing acts of unprovoked violence.

If anything positive is to be drawn from the incident, it must be that the English police are unequalled in their handling of the football supporter. They should be highly commended.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES A. SLACK,
20 Walford Road,
Killamars,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Towns of broken dreams

From Mr George Dawson

Sir, As a youngster in Castelford I had one true dream - just one. I wanted to play rugby league at Wheldon Road for "Cas". I was never going to make it, but that dream gave me hope and gave me a target to aim for.

Thirty-odd years on, having lived in Castelford moving in Featherstone before moving away to find work, I have never lost my love of rugby league nor my support of Castelford.

I have not lost my great admiration for those rugby league coaches and other individuals who work with youngsters in the towns and villages around Castelford, Featherstone and Wakefield encouraging those youngsters to work hard, building team-work and giving those youngsters a chance.

Abandoning Castelford, Featherstone and Wakefield rugby league clubs in a merger to Calder (report, April 10) reduces the chances for those youngsters, as well as destroying links with the supporters of the three clubs.

The chairman of the rugby league clubs should think again before they so easily throw away what has taken generations to build.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE DAWSON,
115 Heatherstone Avenue,
Dibden Purlieu,
Southampton.

Poor justice

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Mr John Byrne asks, "When will we get justice based on the law..." (Sports Letters, April 6), referring to the case of Eric Cantona.

Cantona was an employee and the spectator was a customer. In almost any other form of employment, if an employee treated a customer, regardless of verbal provocation, in the way that Cantona did, he would probably be dismissed summarily for gross misconduct.

Looked at objectively, Cantona's "punishment" was a fine of two weeks' wages and an eight-month holiday with pay.

If he should now move to another club for an estimated £5 million, he will pocket a presumed signing-on fee in the region of £500,000. Where else will a comparable misdemeanour produce such "poor justice"?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan,
Clwyd.

Game of skill

From Mr Richard Godfrey

Sir, Reading your reports on the Masters (April 7, 8, 10) reminds me of the golf I played in Botswana. It is very difficult to grow decent grass in the desert so the greens were "browns" - oil-bound sand rolled flat. Very fast.

With much effort, some sparse and straggly grass was cultivated on the fairways. The "rough" was just sand - like one big bunker, really.

To protect the precious grass, it was a club rule that every shot on the fairway had to be teed up. If you were skilful enough to keep on the fairway, a game of golf became a real game of skill because there were no chance hazards such as bad lies or trees in the way. There were, of course, no water hazards either.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GODFREY,
Westfield,
Portsmouth Road,
Milford,
Godalming,
Surrey.

Test hold-up shortened by helicopter

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

A SUCCESSION of heavy showers, starting after tea on Wednesday and continuing until daybreak here yesterday, meant that the second Test match between West Indies and Australia was almost certain to be drawn.

Yesterday was the last day and, by the time play was resumed, only three hours five minutes were left. After half an hour's batting, during which they did not lose a wicket while Steve Waugh and Reiffel added 27 runs, Australia declared, which left West Indies needing 257 to win in 36 overs, something which they were unlikely to attempt.

In similar conditions, the Test against Pakistan on this same ground two years ago was called off soon after breakfast on the last morning, also when there was the prospect of a good finish. The officials on that occasion were Dickie Bird and Steve Bucknor in the white coats, and Raman Subba Row as the referee. This time, they were David Shepherd and the same Steve Bucknor, with Majid Khan the referee.

I think, and hope, that there is an increasing awareness of the need to make do and mend on these occasions, and the efforts which got play going were commendable. It was an anti-climax, even so, when, with the players back on the field at last and ready to start, it was discovered that the pitch had not been rolled. Some-what perversely, Taylor, the Australia captain, insisted that it should be.

There must be a good many village cricket clubs round the world that have more sophisticated equipment than Antigua's Recreation Ground for mopping up after rain. However, not many would be in a position to send for a helicopter, as happened yesterday, to hover over the wicket patches so that the rotor blade could serve as a kind of blow dryer.

At first sight, the area around the tarpaulins which covered the pitch was such a quagmire that it seemed wishful to think that there could be any play inside a week. Yet Bobby Simpson and the Australian side would have none of that and eventually, with sawdust everywhere, their optimism proved justified.

When play was called off on Wednesday afternoon, the match was still wide open. With three second-innings wickets left, Australia led by 229 runs. They were fancying their chances more, I imagine, than the West Indians. The pitch was becoming a little

worn, and in their three previous innings in this series, West Indies had managed totals of only 195, 189, and 216. Steve Waugh was playing another vital innings for Australia. He is such a good cricketer, although there was a time, in January, when he may have been wondering whether he still was. Against England, he had made successive scores of 1 and 0 in the third Test Match at Sydney, 0 in a one-day international at Melbourne, and 19 and 0 in the fourth Test in Adelaide, and he had not bowled since dislocating his right shoulder in Pakistan in October.

Then came 99 not out and 80 in the last Test match, in Perth, and 64 in Australia's next Test, in Barbados, and there he was on Wednesday holding them together again.

To add to that, he captured the prized wickets of Lara and Hooper, which he took in the

A radar gun, used to give television viewers an instant reading of the speed of bowlers' deliveries, has received approval from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and will be used as part of Sky Sports' coverage of the coming season. The satellite channel will also be allowed to place a microphone inside the stumps to pick up sounds around the bat. However, the innovation of umpires wearing a miniature camera clipped to their pockets was rejected by the TCCB.

space of four balls on Sunday when Taylor gave him his first Test bowl for nearly six months. It will be a long time yet before Australia's opponents have seen the last of the Waugh twins.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 216 (CA Walsh 6 for 54)	
M A Taylor c Murphy b Walsh	5
M A Walsh c Reiffel b Walsh	18
C Broom b W M K Benjamin	87
M E Waugh b W M K Benjamin	51
R W Warne not out	19
G S Blewett c Williams b Hooper	26
N A Healy c Hooper b Walsh	5
S P Jurell run out	13
P R Reiffel not out	20
Bones (lb 1, lb 2, lb 3)	300
Total (lb 1, lb 2, lb 3)	300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-43, 3-149, 4-182, 5-186, 6-254, 7-273	
BOWLING: Australian 1-4-42-0, Walsh 25-3-32-3, W M K Benjamin 24-2-72-2, K C Benjamin 15-1-51-0, Arthurton 1-0-1-0, Hooper 9-3-16-1, Adams 4-0-16-0	
WEST INDIES: First Innings 260 (R C Lara 88)	
Umpires: S Bucknor (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (England) Match referee: Majid Khan (Pakistan)	

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Run to resort	Weather (Spr)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Lech	150 330	good powder (Fresh snow but massed visibility; slushy low down)	fair	sun	-1 13/4
Obertauern	50 150	good varied (Overnight snow giving good skiing, resort not too busy)	fair	fine	4 13/4
St Anton	45 410	good, powder (Excellent skiing on all but lowest runs; Village superb)	slush	sun	0 13/4
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	190 450	fair heavy (Spring conditions on most runs; windy at altitude)	fair	sun	1 10/4
Avonac	250 355	good spring good (Dusting of fresh snow on a varied basis)	cloud	cloud	4 13/4
Chamonix	20 495	good powder closed (Unexpected fall of new snow giving excellent skiing)	sun	fine	12 13/4
Courchevel	160 310	good, varied (Very good Easter skiing; pistes well maintained)	fair	fine	6 29/3
Val Thorens	200 370	good, varied (Excellent spring skiing after overnight snowfall)	good	fine	4 13/4
ITALY					
Cervinia	80 400	good heavy slushy (Good spring skiing on upper runs; worn patches low down)	slushy	sun	14 10/4
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	30 240	fair spring slushy (Dusting of fresh snow overnight; good spring skiing)	fine	cloud	6 13/4
Morren	70 165	fair varied (New snow and improved conditions; good April skiing)	fair	cloud	2 13/4

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

- HUSS (c) The lesser or greater spotted dogfish, *Scyliorhinus caniculus* or *Scyliorhinus stellaris*. "Until recently, dogfish have been sold in the shops under the more glamorous name of rock salmon. Today, the recommended names in the retail shops are huss, fluke and rig."
- JIGOTAI (c) In judo, a defensive posture, a transfiguration of the Japanese. "Jigotai is assumed by spreading your legs wide apart and bending your knees to lower your body."
- KOTATSU (c) A wooden frame which is placed over the hearth in Japanese houses and covered with a thick quilt to give an enclosed area within which people can warm their hands and feet. Also applied to the hearth and the cover together. Transfiguration of the Japanese. "The only other articles of furniture will be the kotatsu, a square wooden frame, covered with a large wadded quilt or futon (under this the whole family huddle for warmth)."
- MINNELIED (c) A love-song written by a minnesinger, or in the style of the minnesingers. From the German *minne* love + *lied* a song. "The first lyrical writer of Ireland was John I, who practised the minnelied with success."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qe4! 1... Qxd4? 2. Nxe7! is mate and, meanwhile, black is unable to cope with the threat to his queen. Full marks also for 1. Qd4! 1... Qe3 and 1. Qf2! all with the same idea.

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Outsider riding back into the mainstream to further pursuit of Olympic gold

Cycling rebel with new frame of reference

The washing machine bike languishes in the attic, the revolutionary riding style has been buried by the bureaucrats and the freak show is over. Graeme Obree, oddball and former world cycling champion, is playing it straight. Today, at Herne Hill, the Scot will emerge from five months of personal grief and professional turmoil to wave an official farewell to the old radical and to announce the arrival of the new conformist.

On the outside, Obree will look like most of the other riders, his ski-tuck riding position, so controversially banned at the world championships last year, discarded in favour of a more standard triathlon position. Inside, Obree remains very much his own man, questioning conventional wisdom, desperate to prove that his success was not a fluke.

"It's back to square one really, except that I have won the world 4,000-metre pursuit championship and broken the world hour record twice," he said. "I have to prove I can be as good again without the Obree position." Olympic gold is at the top of his list.

Since he first came to prominence by taking Federico Moser's world hour record two years ago, on a bike made from scrap metal off the streets of Ayr and a bracket from the washing machine, Obree has divided opinion. Some welcomed him as the keeper of the glorious



Andrew Longmore finds Graeme Obree willing to conform after his winter of turmoil and distress

tradition of British sporting eccentricity. Others, mainly inside cycling, regarded him as a menace, a charlatan, arrogant and dangerous. Still do. His exploits were given the ultimate accolade in France, a full front page in *L'Equipe*, the daily sports newspaper, and his name is still more revered on the streets of Paris than in Irvine on the west coast of Scotland, where he lives with Anne, his wife, and two children.

That Obree is ready to race at all this season is a tribute to his spirit. During the winter, Gordon, his brother, was killed in a car accident and his own character held up to ridicule when he was sacked by Le Grouperment, his new French team, without turning a wheel in anger. After missing a new year training camp, Obree, it seemed, had taken fright, run away from the challenge which Chris Boardman, his great rival, had taken on so successfully in the Tour de France the previous summer. The showman had been found out at last.

Obree's interpretation of

the Le Grouperment fiasco is a little different. "Actually, I was totally and utterly run down at that time," he said. "I was trying to keep to my training schedule because they wanted me to ride some of the classic races early in the season and trying to cope with the shock of my brother's death. I wasn't sleeping at all. What I needed was rest, not more pressure."

At midnight on New Year's eve, Obree took the decision not to go to the team training camp the following day. "I was in two minds, because I wanted to try and get through it," he said, "but I knew if I did go, I would be on my knees, totally unable to do myself justice. In the end, my wife made the decision for me, but I couldn't get hold of the team manager until the day after. When I did, he told me my services were no longer wanted anyway."

Other factors were working against the Scot. The hour record, one of Obree's original objectives with Le Grouperment, had been put out of reach by Tony Rominger, from Switzerland,

the world No 1 whose ride of 55.29 kilometres beat the old record by more than two kilometres, a quantum leap the equivalent of Bob Beamon's long jump. "That's awesome, quite unbelievable and the guys at Le Grouperment obviously thought so too," Obree said. "To be honest, I think I'm well out of it. It would have been great to have ridden the Tour de France, but I wouldn't be that good at it."

Suspicion, too, played its part. Individually — like training intensively for ten minutes a day, not the standard four hours — is tolerated in champions, not in fly-by-nights, and Obree has not endeared himself to the world governing body by threatening to sue them for disqualifying him on the start-line at the world championships in Sicily last year, a ban which cost Obree his world title and his passport to a decent living.

"They had inspected my bike and passed it as legal," Obree said, "but they just made up a rule overnight and disqualified me just before the race. I didn't understand, but I knew that, whatever I did, I would be disqualified anyway. They really saw me as a threat to the fabric of cycling." The official line was that Obree's position made steering difficult and would make racing dangerous if too many of the road riders adopted it. Obree has simply accepted the inevitable.

This season, backed by the German Die-Continentale team, Obree will aim to win back his world title, in Colombia, and put himself in line for the Olympic team next year. However, if the British Cycling Federation, as seems likely, selects only one competitor in the pursuit, Obree will have to be chosen ahead of Chris Boardman, the world and Olympic champion. "It's almost as if the federation will have a gold medal on the table and can decide who to give it to, me or Chris," Obree said. All he asks is to be given a fair hearing.

"When I explained my new riding position to someone the other day, I described it as the 'Superman' position because my arms are extended," he said. "Then I thought, 'Oh no, don't start all that again'. I'm back, I've done my bit, I've conformed."



Obree, focused on the new season, has bowed to his critics and reverted to a more orthodox style

FROM OUTLAW TO SUPERMAN: OBREE'S RIDING POSITION

Obree's banned style



Conventional flat back style



Obree's new 'Superman' style



Wigan ready to end era in championship style

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE traditional Good Friday rugby league programme includes the last spats between old enemies supposed to unite. Before Wigan and St Helens start burying the hatchet into one another in the Super League from next year, a decisive blow today would crown Wigan as the last conventional league champions for a sixth year running.

Contrary to some reports, the 30,000 crowd at Central Park will have their teams to cheer in future. So yet might those at Naughton Park, for the meeting of Widnes and Warrington — Cheshire under their proposed merger — perhaps better get used to supporting a joint team after the rejection of a suggestion that the summer Super League starting next March be expanded to 16 teams.

Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive, was cognisant of the dangers of taking the super out of the Super League by the addition of two more teams. It

was, though, a question of demand and interest — points lost on several club chairmen already in the new set-up.

At a closed meeting in Manchester last night of chairmen to try to clarify issues and the make-up of the league, which opposition by some clubs to merge into city and regional teams has confused, there was support for sticking to 14 teams. After being denied entry on the basis of their promotion from the second division, Keighley announced they would take legal action against the RFL over their omission.

What might open up the league to at least one new name is a possible amalgamation of Bradford Northern and Halifax, two clubs already in the Super League. The Halifax board voted 5-3 for moving to Olds. Chris Caisley, the Bradford chairman, said: "It's probably a necessity." It should also make for an interesting derby match tonight.

Meanwhile, Castleford play at Featherstone Rovers, two parts of an arranged marriage with Wakefield Trinity already headed for the divorce courts. Oldham meet Salford, a tie as Manchester starting to look like Oldham's new home. Doncaster entertain Sheffield Eagles, two willing partners; and Barrow meet Carlisle, half of a Cumbrian quartet that might leave Workington and Whitehaven to get on without them.

Lindsay is making a whistle-stop visit to Australia this weekend for discussions with operators of the break-away Australasian Super League. A particular area of concern is the plan for teams in Paris and Toulouse, which could well end with consolidation into one French side, with discussions also due to take place tomorrow between English and French officials.

Since assuming the coaching role at Wigan nearly a year ago, Graeme West has yet to lose at home to domestic opposition. St Helens have pushed Wigan close twice and gave him his greatest fright in the 16-16 draw in the Challenge Cup fourth round in February. Since then, Wigan have averaged 42 points a game in losing just once.

"Wigan take great pride in winning anything it can get hold of," West, in his first full season in charge, said yesterday. "With this the last championship in its present format, we'll take the same pride in wanting to be the last to win it."

□ Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands have given their support to the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in its battle with the breakaway Super League in Australia and New Zealand. Bob Abbott, the ARL executive assistant, said: "The Pacific Island leagues are all happy to stay with the present system. They are happy with the support we have given them."

Macclesfield will travel in hope

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE big crowds and one-step-from-Wembley drama of the Umbro FA Trophy semi-final first-leg matches overshadowed an important 1-0 victory by Macclesfield Town away to Welling United in the Vauxhall Conference last Saturday.

Arthur Jones, the Macclesfield chairman, said: "They were the best three points of the season. We've got a very young side, who've been showing great consistency, but the defeat by Woking in the Trophy quarter-final upset equilibrium. I travelled back on the coach with the team from Welling and the spirit was as high as it has ever been."

Macclesfield go into a home match with Runcorn tomorrow, knowing that victory would eliminate Southport and Stevenage Borough from the four clubs that have a chance of catching them. It would leave only Altrincham (possible maximum 80 points, with eight matches to play) and Woking (85pts, nine matches) as potential challengers to Macclesfield (96pts, seven matches).

Macclesfield entertain Stevenage on May 6, the final

Saturday, and, if they have any cause for concern, it is that they have a run of five away matches, against Kidderminster Harriers (on Tuesday), Woking (April 25), Bath (April 29), Dover (to be arranged) and Salford City (May 2), to negotiate. The imbalance of fixtures has the advantage of helping to clear Moss Rose for the continuing building

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macclesfield	35	23	8	4	66	31	75
Southport	37	17	8	12	52	48	59
Woking	38	18	10	10	50	45	58
Welling	37	18	10	11	60	45	58
Southport	36	17	9	12	58	42	56
Altrincham	34	17	9	12	58	42	56

work, the delay of which beyond the deadline of December 31 means that the Football League will refuse to promote them automatically as Conference champions.

The club thought that it was covered by arranging a ground-share with Chester City, its former tenants, but was rebuffed on what Jones describes as a "woolly" discretionary clause that specifies

that clubs must share within their own conurbations. "We're a rural town and we were seeking to share with the county town," Jones said.

The glimmer of hope that sustains Macclesfield is the possibility that the League might invite the Conference champions to replace any club that drops out. With Gillingham and Exeter City, desperate to find a buyer, in receivership, and Doncaster Rovers' future under a cloud, Macclesfield are determined to ensure that the ground is up to standard before any such move might be confirmed at the League's annual meeting on June 3.

Jones received encouragement on Tuesday when the local representative of the Football Licensing Authority (FLA) appeared to ally fears that the remodelled ground would not be granted a certificate for the League's required 6,000 minimum capacity.

"It was a long meeting," Jones said. "It's all to do with figures, all to do with terracing and stewarding. It seems now that we can just about do it after an earlier suggestion

from the national representatives of the FLA that we wouldn't be able to. We are trying to involve the FLA with everything we do."

Improving the terracing, which must be of a depth and steepness for future conversion to seating, and laying the foundation for extra seating adjacent to the existing stand, are the short-term projects.

"In the summer, we plan to press ahead with a new 1,600-seat grandstand on the opposite side of the ground that was part of our original three-year plan," Jones said. "That is subject to us getting grant aid, but the FLA has approved our plans and that normally helps to move clubs up the queue."

As Kidderminster, the thwarted champions last season, have discovered this time round, success on the field is not something that can be achieved to order. So Jones would enjoy winning the title on its merits. "Should we win the league, let's just say I will forget the politics for a day and enjoy the celebrations that the manager and players deserve," he said.

Palace concentrate on survival task

By PETER ROBINSON

THEIR turbulent flirtation with the FA Cup finally over, Crystal Palace are back to more mundane matters today, concentrating on the less glamorous but rather more important matter of staying in the FA Carling Premiership. The effect of their defeat by Manchester United in the Cup semi-final replay on Wednesday is about to be revealed.

Optimistic voices at Selhurst Park are already saying that the failure to reach Wembley has hardened the club's resolve to escape relegation, that it is determined not to add failure in the league to the frustrations of losing in the semi-finals of both FA and Coca-Cola Cups, but nothing is ever that simple and Palace know it. Missing out on two finals in quick succession must have a debilitating effect on morale, as do the end of season build-ups of suspensions and injuries.

True, Palace have eight games left to

pull themselves out of the bottom four, more than any of their rivals, but many a manager will say that he would rather have points at this stage of the season than games in hand. A win this afternoon against Tottenham Hotspur is, therefore, vital.

"Picking the players up and mending their broken hearts after Wednesday is my biggest job," Alan Smith, the Palace manager, said. "It's hard to stomach two semi-final defeats in one season, but there's no running away in football. It's all about the winning business."

Four wins from their last eight games would take Palace up to the 50-point mark that Smith considers is enough to stay out of the Endersleigh Insurance League — one point more than Steve Coppell's Palace side achieved in going down in 1993 — and Palace will attempt to win the first of those without Coleman, the defender, who is injured, and perhaps Young, the inspirational centre

half, who awaits a fitness test. Gareth Southgate, the captain who was marked by Roy Keane's studs in the replay, and Darren Patterson, the defender who was sent off for his retaliation, will play. Rhys Wilmut keeps his place in goal with Nigel Martyn still ruled out.

Everton, one place above Palace, can hardly be complacent, but the manner of their 4-1 thumping of Tottenham in the other FA Cup semi-final suggests that they are well-placed to climb out of trouble. Newcastle United are the visitors tonight to Goodison Park, where they have lost once already this season. Manchester City, too, are in trouble and need at least a point from the visit of Liverpool to Maine Road.

Tramere Rovers and Bolton Wanderers, however, have no such worries and they meet today intent on promotion from the first division. Defeat for either would probably mean the opening of early plans for the play-offs.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Crystal Palace v Tottenham (8.30)

Cardiff v Newcastle (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Liverpool (8.15)

First division

Tramere v Bolton (8.0)

Sheff Wed v Arsenal (8.15)

Second division

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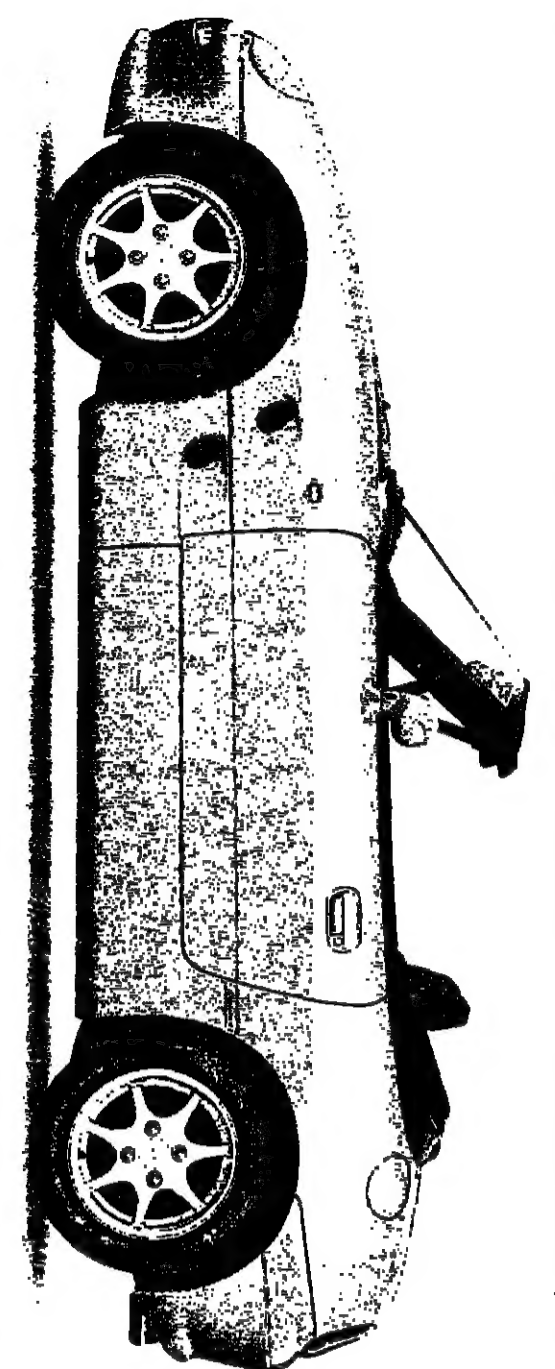
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Equine aristocrat paraded in elegant style



Celtic Swing, the Derby favourite, shown off by Lady Herries, his proud trainer. Photograph: Julian Herbert

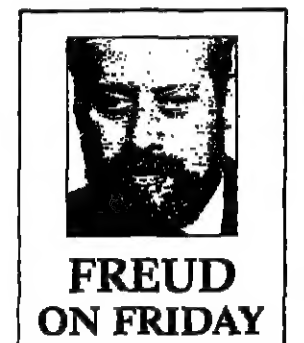
Sloe gin and fast horses at Lady H's invitation to view

It was a really good idea: this public relations/marketing agency advised the trainer of the Derby favourite that, if she invited members of the racing press to come to her stables, let them see the horse on the gallops and provide photo-opportunities, it would put a stop to all those intrusive telephone calls enquiring about its well-being. So she did just that.

We are speaking of Celtic Swing by Damister ex Celtic Ring by Welsh Pageant and Lady Anne Herries by Bernard Duke of Norfolk ex Lavinia by the Duchess by Baron Belper.

We are talking class. We are also talking 14,000 acres, which silences people who have a window box; a two-mile grass gallop; a sub-furlong equitrack, fenced paddocks as if grassland was going out of fashion and a regiment of nicely-spoken serving folk who had been well briefed about the inhabitants of the fourth estate: hungry people unlikely to refuse a drink.

So we arrived on the Angmering estate in West Sussex to be greeted by rich beef broth, game pasties fashioned of puff pastry, sloe gin and port and, after the first past of 27 horses, one of which we had come to see though we had been listed on the song sheet in



FREUD ON FRIDAY

respect of breeding, ownership, work-rider and brief history, our hosts realised that we had been without proven for more than 20 minutes — and returned us to the lawn in front of the house.

Here, did we get trays of raw vegetables and olives with a yoghurt dip; canapes that boasted smoked salmon, tarts filled with cream cheese and chives, prawns in a light curry sauce; there was pork pie such as you dream about; moist meat spiced to a nicety, encased in crisp golden crust; and there was wine.

Then, after the servers had circled their customers a dozen times in the course of which we came visibly to fruition, blooming like forget-me-nots in a hedgerow in spring, they brought us deep fried mushrooms with lemon mayonnaise, succulent skewers of

meat and liver with an exotic sauce and, each time we set down a glass, someone came by to refill it.

And the sun shone from a cloudless sky and Lady Herries was available for questions as was her husband, Sir Colin Cowdrey (who did not know the two Test cricketers whose full names contain none of the letters in the word "mackerel", though he got one of them after I told him that the only London underground station to survive the mackerel test was St John's Wood) and Maxine, his daughter-in-law, who rides with skill.

After a while, Celtic Swing was brought to join us on the lawn, raised his tail and epitomised the nation's plight to show that this was just another day in a charismatic career. He then posed like an old pro, looking this way and that as requested by the photographers.

He is a horse who intimidates the competition in the paddock before out-performing it on the race course and the reason why there remain folk who bet on other contenders for the year's classics is simply because, as they say in Yorkshire, where his trainer was a master of foreshadows before the call of the family estate brought her back south: "There's nowt so queer as folk".

As a means of endearing herself to her 60 guests and showing off the beauty of one of England's great estates with warmth and modesty, it was impeccably done. Had this been a recruiting drive for prospective journalists, the exercise would have been deemed an outstanding success.

But, if Lady Herries really thought that this unique manifestation of hospitality — "Can you imagine Henry Cecil doing this?" was the question on everyone's lips — would win her peace from hacks enquiring about Celtic Swing's well-being, the dear woman should have her head examined.

On the contrary, now that we have all met her and drunk her drink, eaten her food, trod her carpets and used her loos, we are going to ring her whenever, prior to this, we might have hesitated to intrude on her busy life.

"Hello Lady H," we shall say. "We met over your sloe gin in April: tell me how the great horse slept and what he had for breakfast?"

"Will he win the Derby?" "Of course he will, what a silly question." Is he worth backing? When Peter Savill, the owner, got 250-1 after the horse's first race last year, it was value. At 248 points less, it just may be too late.

Giants one step ahead in race to Wembley

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE race for the Budweiser League basketball title went to the last minute of the last game, and now, for the first time in the league's history, three of the four quarter-final play-offs have gone to a decisive third game.

With only Manchester Giants certain of their place, for the second successive season, at Wembley for the Budweiser championship finals, it is hardly surprising that all the clubs are reaping the benefits — in attendances — of the competitive season.

One man whose words may yet come back to haunt him is Kevin Cadle, the coach of London Towers, who seemed certain to make the short trip from Wembley Court to Wembley Arena when his side led the Leopards 72-65 in the second leg on Wednesday night. "Two out of the top four teams might not make it to Wembley," Cadle had predicted, little knowing that Towers would concede 10 points in a dramatic late scoring spree by the Leopards.

Cadle's views were supported by Birmingham Bullets, who finished eighth, and Worthing Bears, who were seventh. The Bullets had already taken Sheffield Sharks, the double winners, to a third game at Ponds Forge on Sunday, and, on Wednesday, the Bears did the same against Thames Valley Tigers, the runners-up. It was only in overtime that the Tigers gained a 97-94 victory over the ageing Bears, taking the teams back to Bracknell tomorrow to decide which goes to Wembley.

Teddington sights on final

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN CAGLIARI

PROVIDED that Teddington can get past HDM, the Dutch club from The Hague, they should qualify for the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup hockey tournament here in Sardinia. Teddington's other opponents in pool B are Pozzowice, from Poznan, Poland, and Amstocora, the host club, whom they play today.

After two days of intense preparation, the Teddington team was declared fit yesterday by Neil Campbell, the manager, who said: "I am particularly relieved that Peter Gibbins has recovered from his hamstring injury and he will be on the right wing for our first match."

Teddington will have to wait until Sunday to play the Dutch, whose side has only one international player, Wouter van Pelt, the deep defender who has made 99 appearances for his country.

Grange, from Edinburgh, representing Scotland, start

their campaign early today with a match against Real Club del Polo, of Barcelona. Their other opponents in pool A are Harveshteder, from Germany, and Ekaterinburg, from Russia. David Leiper, with 59 international appearances, and Danny Hay, with 51, are the two most experienced players in the Edinburgh side.

The Spanish team features two familiar faces, Russell Garcia and Rowan Davis. Both have represented England and Great Britain. Garcia more conspicuously as a gold medal-winner at the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988.

The Germans have brought three players from the present Germany national team — Stefan Saliger, Michael Green and Christian Stengler. The tournament ends with the final on Monday.

With the league championship tucked safely under their

arm, Slough head for Holland this weekend for the women's European Cup Winner's Cup (Alix Ramsay writes). With four games in four days, the schedule is hectic and first Slough must deal with Heriot Watt University, Tekstishnik, from Russia, and Groningen, the home club, in the group matches before the medals are decided on Monday.

Slough have a seasonal spring in their step, despite suffering their only league defeat of the season — 3-1 against Ipswich — last Saturday. The silver medal from the European indoor championships is already in the trophy cabinet and Karen Brown, the former Slough captain, said: "Our aim was to win the league this season and we were surprised how easily we did that. If we don't get to the final, we'll be disappointed; if we reach the final and don't win it, we'll be even more disappointed."

Edinburgh revels in quality

By CRAIG LORD

ORGANISERS of swimming events clamour for the attendance of competitors from Hungary and Finland, which are, per head of population, the most successful nations in the sport. Most of those events are shunned, which illustrates the remarkable achievement of Edinburgh in attracting to the Royal Commonwealth Pool today one of the finest international line-ups seen in Great Britain.

It might be expected that British swimmers would shoo to bathe in the benefits of such experience, but sadly not. Most are hostages to the ineptitudes of calendar planners and their own fears about frequency of competitions, and will, instead, stay away to

hone themselves for the European championship trials in Sheffield next week.

Those planning the Sheffield date had a choice of three weekends and knew the fixed Scottish date when they opted for the one-week gap, but there are those who would still brave the fierce challenges of Jani Sievinen and Armi Kasvio, the Finnish world champions, and Norbert Rosta and Atila Czenc, of Hungary.

For Paul Palmer, the Lincoln middle distance freestyle swimmer, Edinburgh offers greater benefits than Sheffield, both in the competitive value of the race and in the pocket, with each event carrying £1,000 in prize-money and

a car offered as the reward for a world record.

Palmer will take on Kasvio in the 400 metres freestyle in their first long-course (50 metre pool) outing together this year. The winter short-course (25 metre) season ended with the Briton nestled in third place on the world ranking list, one behind the Finn.

Martin Harris, the Commonwealth champion from London, takes on Sievinen in the 100 metres backstroke, while Fraser Walker, second at the world short-course championships in 1993, will receive the greatest cheer when he meets the same Finn, who is the world record-holder and champion, in the 200 metres individual medley.

Russia, out in the cold

All Fall Down, Radio 4, 9.45am.

There is definitely something of the actor *manqué* in Misha Glenny. He gives who delivers his third talk about Europe after the Cold War. He gives the impression that he is reading from the text of a play, not from a news-inspired script. His images are vivid, and there is much passion in the voice that points them. *All Fall Down* finds Glenny acting like a 20th-century Cassandra. "How do you anticipate the future of Bedlam?" he asks rhetorically about Boris Yeltsin's Russia. "Is there a place left for the Russian soul? Naturally, I haven't a clue." But hasn't he? I detect no ambiguity in the title of today's talk. He calls it *Dead Soul of Russia*.

Bach's St Matthew Passion, Radio 3, 7.30pm.

We have Mendelssohn to thank for bringing huge orchestral and choral forces to bear on Bach's devotional masterpiece. Joshua Rifkin, who conducts this recorded performance, believes Bach's intentions were much more modest. Hence the numerically minimal line-up of instrumentalists and singers he mustered when the work was performed and recorded at last year's Proms. In place of the big choir, we hear three sopranos, three basses, two counter-tenors and choir. Instead of the massive orchestra, we have the Bach Ensemble and the St James's Baroque Players. Irreducible, because there are only two of them, are the soloists — John Elwes's Evangelist and Stephen Varcoe's Christus. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Show, Wright 6.00am Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa Tansley including at 12.30-12.45pm News: 2.00pm Moby Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 News: 7.00pm Pale Tong's Eastern Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00am The RZA Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Roger Royle 6.15 Pause for Thought 8.05 Wake-Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 John Dunn 1.00pm Sir Weeden's Fables Hour 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 6.00 Scored Still 7.00 Head 7.30 Friday Night's Music 8.45 Richard Rodney Bennett 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Alan Rickman 12.00am Digby Fawcett 1.00am Charles Row

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, Inc. at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.55 The Magazine 11.00 News: 12.00pm Middy with Mat, including at 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 3.05 Football Focus: Transverse v Bolton; Crystal Palace v Spurs; Manchester City v Liverpool 5.30 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.30 the day's sport in full 7.35 The Friday Mail; Evening News; Newsnight 8.35 News Now the Good News 10.05 Stop Press 10.35 Financial Week 11.05 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial Forecast; 11.55am After Hours, with Richard Evans 2.05 Up All Night, with Christopher Price

TALK RADIO

6.00am Simeri, Miah, Sean, Bojor, 10.00 Scott Chisholm, 1.00pm Anna Reuben, 5.00 Tommy Boyd, 7.00pm Mrs. Don, Carol McGilton, 10.00 Casser, 1.00am Al Kelly

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Maths: Formula Revision
6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Caroline Young, Boys Overboard No 8 (John's College, Cambridge)
7.30am News: 8.00am News: 8.15am News: 8.30am News: 8.45am News: 9.00am News: 9.15am News: 9.30am News: 9.45am News: 10.00am News: 10.15am News: 10.30am News: 10.45am News: 11.00am News: 11.15am News: 11.30am News: 11.45am News: 11.55am News: 12.00am News: 12.15am News: 12.30am News: 12.45am News: 1.00am News: 1.15am News: 1.30am News: 1.45am News: 1.55am News: 2.00am News: 2.15am News: 2.30am News: 2.45am News: 2.55am News: 3.00am News: 3.15am News: 3.30am News: 3.45am News: 3.55am News: 4.00am News: 4.15am News: 4.30am News: 4.45am News: 4.55am News: 5.00am News: 5.15am News: 5.30am News: 5.45am News: 5.55am News: 6.00am News: 6.15am News: 6.30am News: 6.45am News: 6.55am News: 7.00am News: 7.15am News: 7.30am News: 7.45am News: 7.55am News: 8.00am News: 8.15am News: 8.30am News: 8.45am News: 8.55am News: 9.00am News: 9.15am News: 9.30am News: 9.45am News: 9.55am News: 10.00am News: 10.15am News: 10.30am News: 10.45am News: 10.55am News: 11.00am News: 11.15am News: 11.30am News: 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tion is very different in America as *Naked News: The Anchor* (Channel 4) entertainingly made clear.

For British journalists this was addictive stuff. "How much" we would say at regular intervals, our jaws dropping lower as the salaries got higher. For others, I fear the burgeoning career of the 25-year-old Donya Archer may have been less than gripping, despite the film's fast-moving pace. Why things are so different over here—Trevor McDonald and Selina Scott notwithstanding—was never really explored, but Walter Cronkite was on hand to cast "Ken" and Barbie "journalism" for which the top exponents can, nevertheless, rake in up to \$8 million a year. "It is an honourable profession to be a newsreader," said Cronkite. "Just don't pretend to be a journalist."

CHANNEL 4

6.35am **Spiff and Hercules** (7587511)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (27550)
9.00 **Little Wizards** (7) (27424)
9.30 **California Dreams** (6950085)
9.55 **Gamesmaster** (7) (6933004)
10.25 **Batman: A Piece of the Action** (4835266)
10.55 **TinTin: Tintin in America** (7) (5173795)
11.20 **Pugwall's Summer** (7). (5817530)
11.50 **Terrytoons** (8655443)
12.00 **FILM: The Black Swan** (1942, b/w). Tyrone Power as a reformed buccannier who sets out to bring a cold-blooded pirate to justice. With George Sanders, Maureen O'Hara, Lord Cregar and Thomas Mitchell. Directed by Henry King. (569085)



• **Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier** (1.35pm)

1.35pm **FILM: Wuthering Heights** (1939, b/w). Classic production of Emily Brontë's novel set on the Yorkshire Moors starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon. Directed by William Wyler. (Teletext: 7519804/0)

river Delta in Papua New Guinea bring in 1000
hovecraft to help them reach remote areas (r). (c)
(TeleText) (34443)

4.30 Fifteen to One (ss) (TeleText) (645)

5.00 Deadline (r) (s) (TeleText) (8838)

5.30 Undercover Britain: Crackdown (r) (TeleText)
(968)

6.00 FILM: She (1965). The H. Rider Haggard classic
with Ursula Andress as the legendary 2,000-year-old
Amazon in the African desert who lures John
Richardson back to join her in immortality. Directed
by Robert Day. (TeleText) (2183424)

7.55 Channel 4 News Summary and weather (TeleText)
(309627)

8.00 Gardens Without Borders: Italy. Alan Mason and
Italian gardener Alessandro Tombetti compare a
Suffolk garden and Florence's city gardens (s)
(TeleText) (94862)

8.30 Brookside. Mandy receives the news she has
been cast in a new play. (TeleText) (5293)

**9.00 FILM: Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-
Stop Cafe** (1991). Jessica Tandy is a feisty
octogenarian who tells Kathy Bates the stories of
two women and their eventful lives in the Deep
South in the 1930s. With Mary Stuart Masterson and
Mary Louise Parker. Directed by Jon Avnet.
(TeleText) (739248)

11.30 Newsline TV With Ice-T and Andrea Oliver.
Featuring an interview with Isaac Hayes, a profile of
pop star Sean Michaels and music from Carl
Douglas. (s) (98559)

12.00 FILM: Scanners (1980). David Cronenberg's sci-
thriller about a telepath with terrifying ESP powers.
Starring Stephen Lack, Pamuk McGowan and
William Katt. (s) (81842)

1.55pm FILM: The Crimes of Stephen Hawke (1936
b/w). Regency period piece starring Rod Laughton
as an apparently benevolent moneylender who
turns out to be a mass murderer. Directed by
George King. (1510225)

[illegible]

FRIDAY APRIL 14 1995

Replay rivals on disrepute charge

FA must keep Keane out of Cup Final

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ROY KEANE — magnificent athlete, malign temper — must not be allowed to play in the FA Cup Final next month. His stamping, twice, into the body of a grounded opponent during the semi-final replay between Manchester United and Crystal Palace on Wednesday, drove inexcusable mud marks into the reputation of a game already fallen into disrepute.

That the Football Association promptly and properly charged Keane yesterday, together with Darren Patterson, the first Palace player to fight with him, with bringing their game into disrepute, is laudable. That Graham Kelly should insist that, as chief executive, he cannot speculate on punishment or motive, is also right. But the rest of us need not wait 14 days to see whether, in Kelly's words, Keane can come up with a satisfactory answer for his action during his side's 2-0 victory.

There is none, and there will be no reasonable excuse to allow a man who committed such violent abuse on such a defensive night for the sport and society, to grace the hallowed turf of Wembley on May 20 against Everton.

The FA has little option but to acknowledge that this is the day that tens of millions of viewers, all around the world, judge our standards; indeed, whether it is rational or not, foreigners will judge English behaviour by the standards set on our national playing field.

One wonders whether Alex Ferguson believes that he has the right to proudly lead his Manchester United warriors onto that famous turf, for Ferguson, who felt compelled on the eve of the replay to lecture the youth of the nation on the insanity of violence, represents a team half of whose members have been

sent off this season. He cannot see it, violently disagrees with the view, but the unpopularity of United — unpopularity shared by grown-ups and children — stems from the over-combative style with which they mix great beauty, joy and cavalier instincts with untenable behaviour, of disrespect for authority and harmful reaction to fellow professionals.

The Professional Footballers' Association is, again, deafening in its silence. It speaks only to condemn those who would suggest that players are role models, or that a lady magistrate may just have been in her rights when she attempted to make an example of Eric Cantona for his kung-fu kick into the chest of a spectator. Ferguson himself, as a player and a manager, is a volatile person. Sometimes

Palace resolve — 36
Macclesfield's hope — 36

he suppresses his rage splendidly, sometimes he fails, and all too often he evokes a complex around Old Trafford that suggests he is more comfortable with a "them and us" attritional atmosphere.

Ferguson insisted again on Wednesday: "We will handle it [the question of discipline] as we always do, indoors in our own way. We don't need to broadcast to the world what we are doing."

No. The world, as he puts it, pays his and the players' wages. Manchester United enjoy the riches of being an institution, and people who run an institution have an obligation to their worshippers, to the public at large, to explain in every detail, every nuance, how and why the privileged performers within it are subjected to

punishments when they so publicly err.

It is for lack of discipline that United are about to lose the FA Carling Premiership title to Blackburn Rovers, who, arguably, are a team of lesser gifted individuals but more committed organisation, and who just manage to stay the right side of football's laws. Yet how incredible it was to hear Ferguson say that, at half-time, his doctor had to put seven stitches into the ankle of Keane, but that Keane insisted on coming out for the second half, even if only for ten minutes. What was the intention? A warrior's stubbornness, or ten minutes in which to extract revenge?

Later, in the supposed privacy of the players' lounge, Andy Cole, who was not even eligible to be on the pitch, was remonstrated with by Darren Pitcher, whose tackle had caused the wound to Keane, who indeed was later booked for a hacking foul on Ince. This much was true: that on a night when United supporters disrespectfully goaded Palace people with their appalling Cantona songs, there were insidious acts of violence, crippling tackles around the ankles, as well as malicious use of the elbow, to provoke United.

Where United failed was in the matter of self control, and that, too, is a skill, a habit in which our players are too often dunces. The FA insists that the game needs to be kept within its jurisdiction and out of the courts. But where is it taking us? A week ago, an American writer, Robert Lipsyte, wrote: "As a mirror of our culture, sports now show us spoiled fools as role models... the pathetic posturing of in-your-face macho has replaced a once self-confident masculinity."

Lipsyte was talking of the baseball strike, of the likes of Mike Tyson, Tonya Harding, O.J. Simpson. Surely this is the time to ensure that, for once, England, and its sport, does not follow where the United States leads.



Keane, left, and Patterson in conflict at Villa Park during a match that further tarnished football's image.

Athlete succeeds in appeal against drug test

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IME AKPAN, a Nigerian hurdler, has become the first athlete to win an appeal against a suspension for steroid abuse using the sports international arbitration procedures.

The decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to reinstate Akpan, which was announced yesterday, should improve confidence in the system, according to her legal representative, Adam Driggs, a Phoenix attorney. When such cases arise, the arbitration panel is chosen by the IAAF.

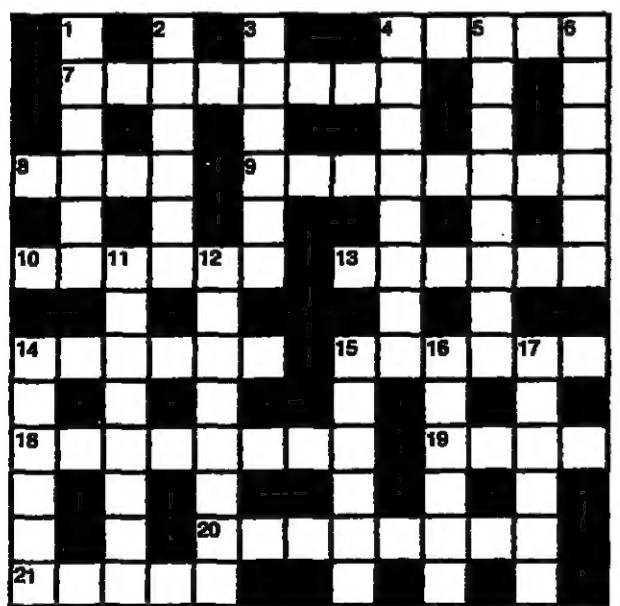
"It is not arbitration in a true sense," Driggs said. "There has been complaints by athletes that they were not receiving a fair hearing. The IAAF is police, prosecutor and judge, but all three panelists were I felt, interested in making the right decision. I think the confidence that the public has in the arbitration process will be heightened because there is a chance get a clearance."

Akpan was a 13.03sec 100 metres hurdler when she was found positive for Nandrolone in an out-of-competition test in June 1993. However, she argued that the banned substance stemmed from her use of the contraceptive pill, Norinyl. The IAAF's arbitration panel first heard her case in November last year then again, with expert witnesses, on April 1. Akpan's expert witness, Dr David Black from Nashville, was able to show that it was inconclusive whether the substance found in Akpan's system was caused by Nandrolone or Norinyl.

"According to Driggs, Akpan, 22, has been awarded costs, but not full attorney fees. "The IAAF has agreed to pay approximately one-third of her expert and attorney fees," Driggs said. Damages, Driggs said, would be a matter for her client to consider. "There is no doubt this has damaged her career and her reputation for endorsement purposes," Driggs added.

Susan Tiedtke-Greene, the German who won the women's long jump bronze medal at the world indoor championships last month, tested positive for a banned steroid in her B sample yesterday and faces a four-year ban.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 446

ACROSS

- 4 Black American folk music (5)
- 7 Height distinction (8)
- 8 N African marketplace (4)
- 9 Reacting with outrage (2,2,4)
- 10 Room in church; parish meeting (6)
- 13 Mythical paradise of King Arthur (6)
- 14 Consecrate with oil (6)
- 15 Get away (6)
- 16 Yangtze port; impress (sailor) (8)
- 19 Divine from crystal ball (4)
- 20 Profit distribution share (8)

DOWN

- 1 Remove (from coal) post (6)
- 2 Gate; set of stumps (6)
- 3 Great poverty (6)
- 4 Highest GB mountain (3,5)
- 5 Rain protector (8)
- 6 Period of time; add flavour (6)
- 11 Get out of bed (4,1,3)
- 12 Apostate (8)
- 14 Take for granted (6)
- 15 Draw out, evoke (6)
- 16 US general, killed by Sioux (6)
- 17 Satirical mimicry (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 445

- ACROSS: 1 Sob story 5 Crop 9 Lady Bountiful 10 Here 11 Embargo 13 Vellum 15 Thieve 18 Rastafia 20 Gist 23 An eye for an eye 24 Goya 25 Predator
- DOWN: 1 Sulk 2 Badge 3 Tableau 4 Reuben 6 Referee 7 Pullover 8 Stab 12 Overhang 14 Lottery 16 Haggard 17 Favour 19 Flea 21 Sleet 22 Peet

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Hendry fired by grand ambition

Phil Yates believes the champion has reserved his best for the Embassy world championship

IN MANY ways, Stephen Hendry, favourite for the Embassy world snooker championship, which begins its 17-day run at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, today, has become a victim of his own unprecedented success.

Hendry, who will be attempting to win the game's most coveted title for a fourth year in succession and for the fifth time in all, has set such high personal standards that a level of performance that most of his fellow professionals would gladly accept is often classified as a failure.

The Scot, 26, is, according to some, in a slump. True, he has not won a tournament since the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge in January and has been beaten a number of times by players who are considered among his main rivals at the Crucible.

As Hendry has still won four events this season, including the United Kingdom championship and European Open, and with £336,550 easily tops the money-list, in his case, slump is clearly meant in a relative sense.

Yet, it would be near-sighted to argue that Hendry arrives at Sheffield with his cup of confidence overflowing. It is impossible to win 51 tournaments worldwide without a passionate dislike of defeat, and some of his recent setbacks have not been palatable experiences.

Hendry lost 9-8 to Peter Ebdon in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters three weeks ago and was beaten 5-1 by John Parrott in the quarter-finals of the British Open last week. However, the result that will have caused him greatest concern is a 5-2 defeat at the hands of Ronnie O'Sullivan in the last 16 of the Thailand Open in mid-March.

It was one of those very rare

occasions when Hendry played well and lost. O'Sullivan, whom he is seeded to meet in the quarter-finals of the world championship, produced potting and break building that made him simply too hot to handle.

Throughout the past couple of months, though, Hendry has been preoccupied. Not with thoughts of summer days walking the fairways of his beloved Gleneagles or of his wedding to Mandy Tart, his long-time fiancée, in late June. His mind has been on the Crucible.

Having enjoyed so much success in lesser events, Hendry, unlike Steve Davis, is finding motivation increasingly difficult and that has been an overriding negative influence in recent weeks. With the chance of becoming the first player to win four consecutive titles at the Crucible since it became permanent home to the championship in 1977, Hendry is sure to be focused this time.

Closing in on the modern-

era record of six world championship triumphs, held jointly by Davis and Ray Reardon, is an added incentive to the first prize of £190,000 and the promise of a Ferrari from Sweater Shop, his sponsor, should he make a successful defence.

In 1991, the last time Hendry travelled home without the trophy, he was suffering from mental burnout and staleness after a season in which he had won nine tournaments. His schedule in 1995, while hectic, has been nowhere near as exhausting.

Hendry is quoted at 11-10 by William Hill, with John Higgins, his compatriot and former practice partner, next on the list at 6-1 after his capture of the Skoda Grand Prix, International Open and British Open titles this season.

As a 19-year-old, Higgins, who is well capable of superseding Hendry as the 68-year history of the championship, is constantly compared with O'Sullivan, his contemporary,

who won the Masters at Wembley in February. In temperament, style and character, they are as opposed as Davis and Jimmy White.

O'Sullivan, a streetwise, brash Londoner, inhabits a world far removed from that of Higgins, who still shares a room with his two brothers in the family home at Wislaw. He is modest and unassuming, while O'Sullivan can convey an impression of arrogance.

Higgins does not possess O'Sullivan's natural talent, but he benefits from a calmer attitude, is less impulsive, has more balance to his game and, most important, has the ability to concentrate fiercely for lengthy periods.

That, in particular, is an invaluable asset during the 17-day marathon of the mind that the world championship has become. O'Sullivan is plagued by inconsistency in much the same way as White, a perennial nearly man at Sheffield, who has reached the final six times and lost them all.

White, who underwent surgery a fortnight ago to remove his left testicle, has endured his worst season since turning professional in 1981 and, unless his form improves dramatically, his fruitless search for the title will continue.

Although Hendry, Higgins and O'Sullivan undoubtedly have the strongest credentials, James Wattana and John Parrott are also realistic contenders. Wattana, who would be the first non-British champion since Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, in 1980, boosted his self-belief when he retained the Thailand Open title in his native Bangkok. Parrott, the 1991 world champion, is always a threat, purely on the horses for courses theory.



Hendry: in pursuit of a fourth successive title

Higgins's challenge, page 37
Tough for Davis, page 37

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